

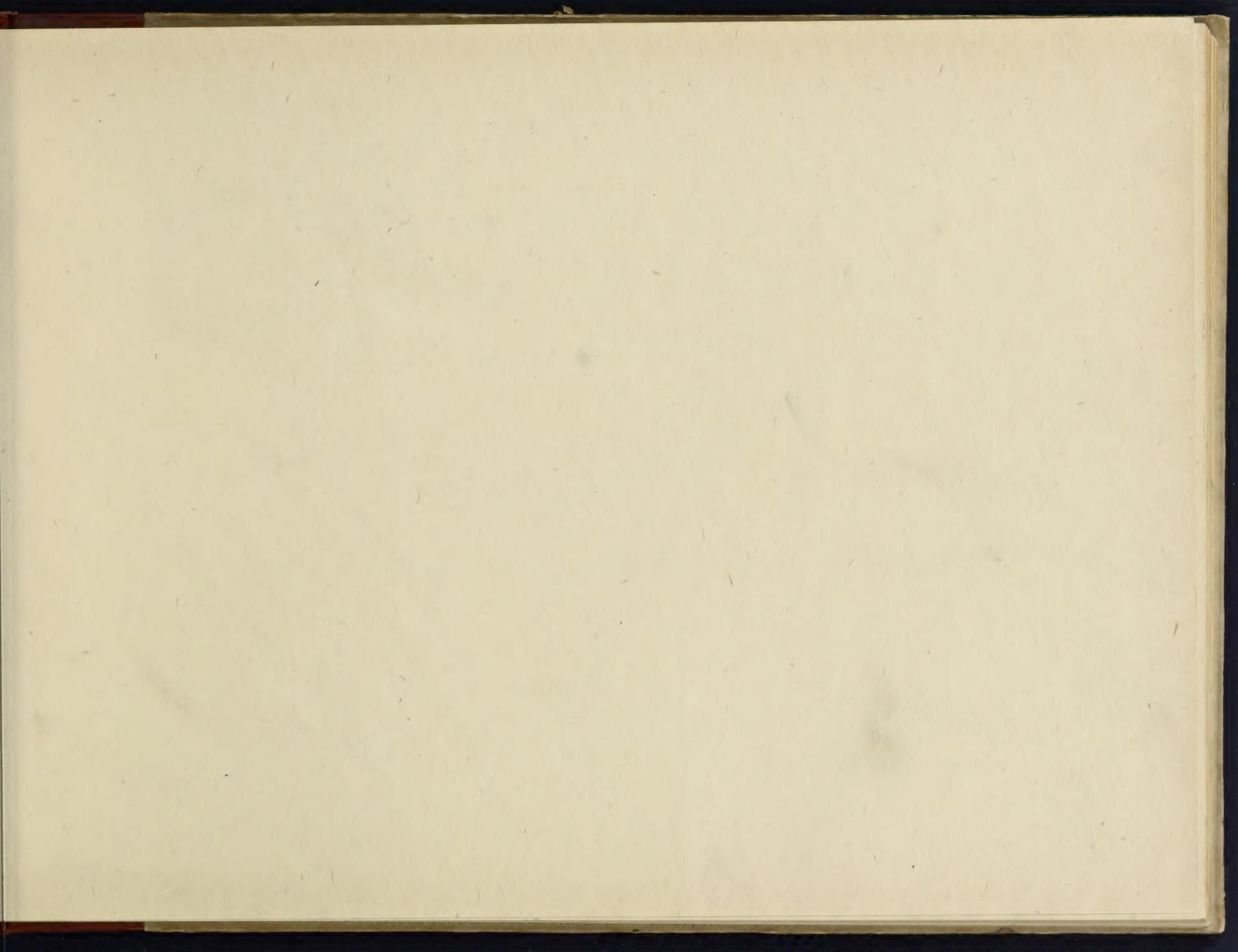
Oh MAN

by

BRIGGS



60



OH, MAN!

A Bully Collection of Those Inimitable
Human Cartoons

By
BRIGGS

With a Breezy Foreword by FRANKLIN P. ADAMS



Published by
P. F. VOLAND COMPANY
NEW YORK CHICAGO TORONTO



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CHICAGO, ILL.
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FOREWORD

IF this foreword will convince the prodigal publishers of Mr. Briggs' book that forewords are not only unnecessary and wasteful, but also harmful, I shall not have foreworded in vain. While—being a Handy Man Around the House—I was waiting for my wife to find the copy-paper I had left on my desk only ten minutes before, I again decided that this foreword business, as one of Mr. Briggs' contemporaries, whom I shall call Rube Goldberg, for that is his name, says is all wrong, Agamemnon, it's all wrong. It is overdone. I don't want Mr. H. G. Wells to tell me, before I read it, that Mr. Frank Swinnerton's "Nocturne" is great stuff; nor Mr. Ade to discover Kin Hubbard to me; nor even the rutilant Mr. Shaw to ballyhoo before the fascinating tent of Samuel Butler. As to the poets, I can't pick up a new volume without having Miss Amy Lowell's or Mr. Louis Untermeyer's prejgment, without being told that *Here, You Poor Ignoramus, Is a Book You Ought to Read*.

Such prefaces, of course, are written by Illustrious and Discerning Persons for the purpose of introducing Obscurities to the Dub Public.

But, for me to foreword a Briggs book is not precisely an Illustrious Person introducing an Obscurity. It is more like the megaphone man on a Seeing Bangor Wagon saying, "And here, ladies and gentlemen, immediately overhead, we have the sun, a golden orb which often shines on our city." It is like George V. Hobart writing an introduction to "Macbeth".

Who, in short, am I, to introduce Briggs?

Still, I should rather write this foreword than an editorial ten years after Briggs' death, saying that we didn't appreciate him while he was here. Speaking as one who hears that appreciation so many times a day that I often want to ask people whether they forget that I too, am on the same paper, and haven't I got a little pride, and doesn't anyone ever see my stuff—speaking, I say, as one like that, I hereby go on record as declaring that we, meaning the all too human race, do appreciate him.

When people say, patronizingly, of a man like Briggs, or Charlie Chaplin, or Lew Fields, "He really is an artist," I am afflicted with vertigo and a sharp pain. Any man who can draw 365 cartoons a year,

and have every one of them true and unmalicious, and most of them satirical, with a sound comment on life, is so obviously an artist that people oughtn't to discuss it. Of course he's an artist, as is any man, in or out of journalism, who comes to bat once a day, year after year, and never fails to assemble a hit. A few days ago, when I was particularly depressed over my own ineptitude, I looked at a Briggs cartoon and sighed half enviously, half despairingly, "Gosh! doesn't the guy ever turn out a bad one?"

Take the "Oh, Man!" series. There is the theme of a novel or a short story in every one of them. Suppose Briggs had drawn as an "Oh, Man!" cartoon O. Henry's "The Pendulum".

- I. Husband, accustomed to playing pool every evening at 8:15, comes home at 6:30 and finds wife missing.
- II. Reads note, "Gone to mother's. She is ill."
- III. Sits around lamenting wife's absence.
- IV. Gazes out of window, musing that he ought to have treated her better.
- V. Wife returns, "Mother wasn't really ill, so I came home."
- VI. "Well, I guess I'll go down to McCloskey's and play a little pool."

That, a perfect O. Henry story, is also a perfect "Oh, Man!" cartoon.

As long as we order lamb-stew downtown at lunch and look injured when it is served at home; as long as we fight to pay a stranger's dinner check and ask why the grocery bill is so high; as long as we hurry the domestic establishment through breakfast and waste hours in the office boasting and telling stories; as long, in brief, as the celebrated earth revolves around the no less noted sun, so long will Briggs be true and universal. And so long will there be rich material to his gifted hand.

That is all I intend to say about Briggs. No publisher, blandish me as he will, can induce me to spoil a book as good as this one. In 1950, if you want a truer record of these days than you will get in the histories, read this book again. And—I have my vanity—don't forget that this unnecessary preface was proudly written by Briggs' friend,

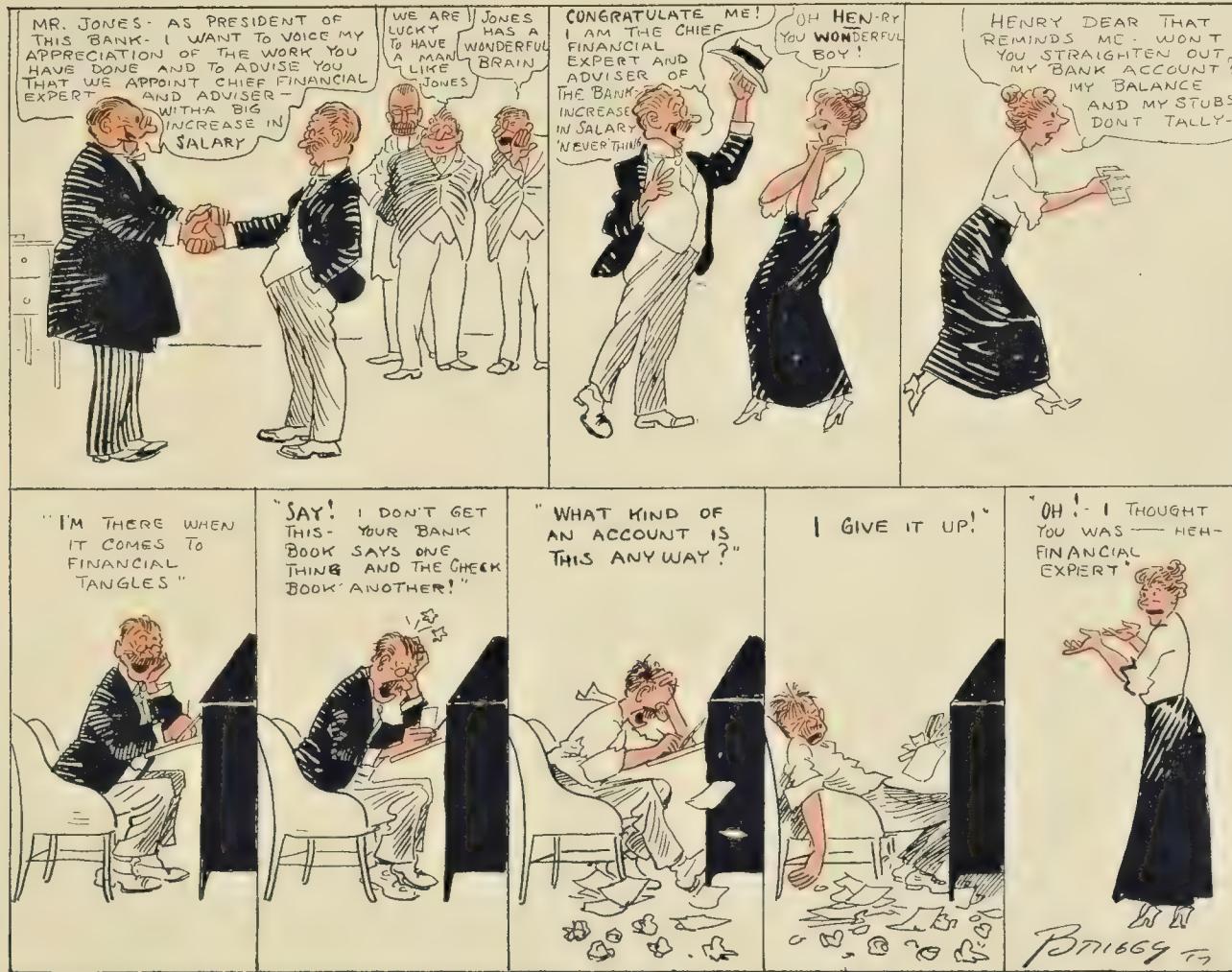
New York, June 14, 1919.

FRANKLIN P. ADAMS.



OH, MAN!





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE

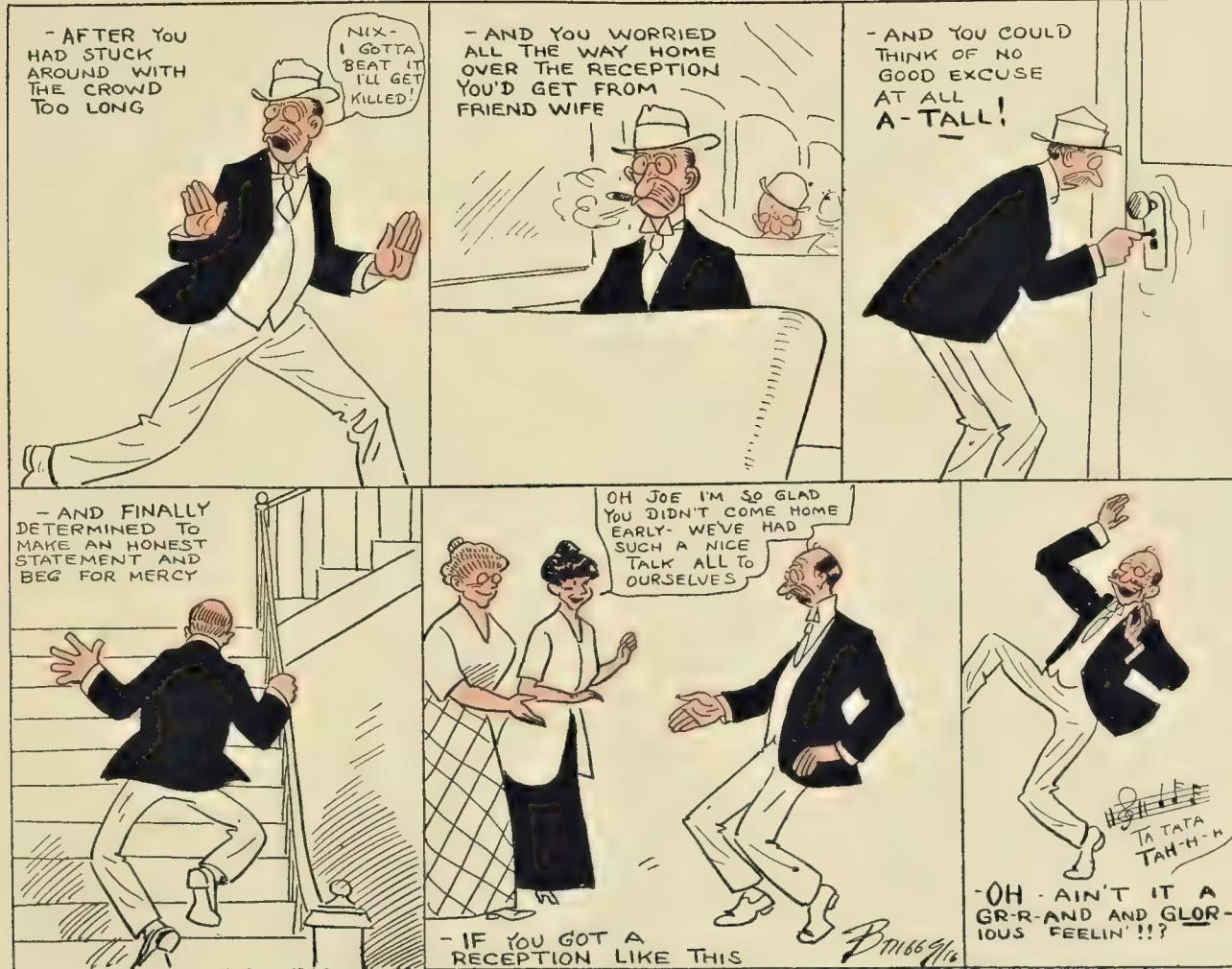


BREAKING OF STUD



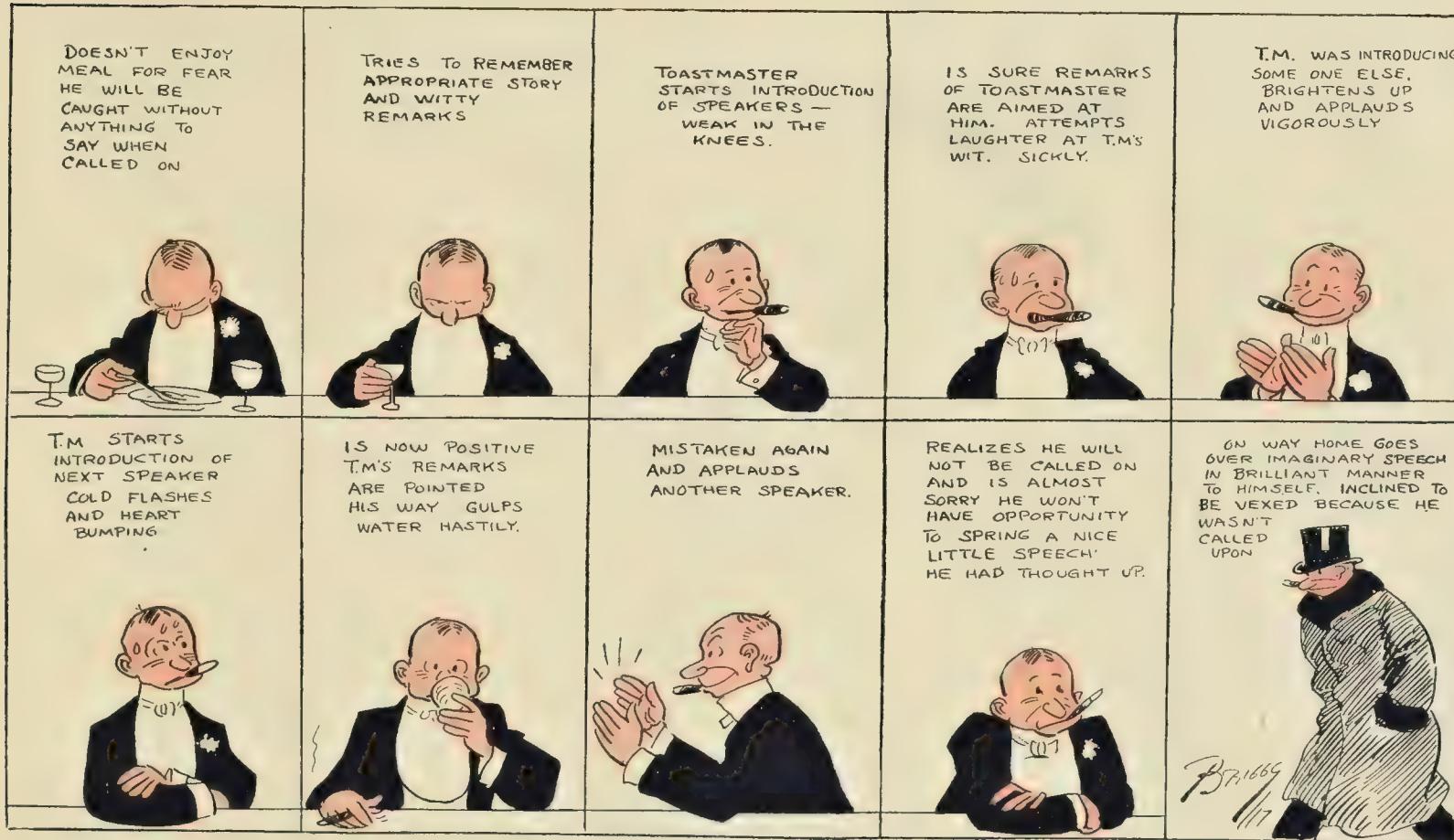
OH, MAN!





OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!





MOVIE OF A MAN AFRAID OF BEING CALLED ON FOR A SPEECH

-IF A FRIEND, ALL OF A SUDDEN
CAME ACROSS WITH A HUNDRED
DOLLARS HE OWED YOU ! - ! - ! -
OH! AIN'T IT A GR-R-RAND
AND GLOR-YUS FEELIN'?

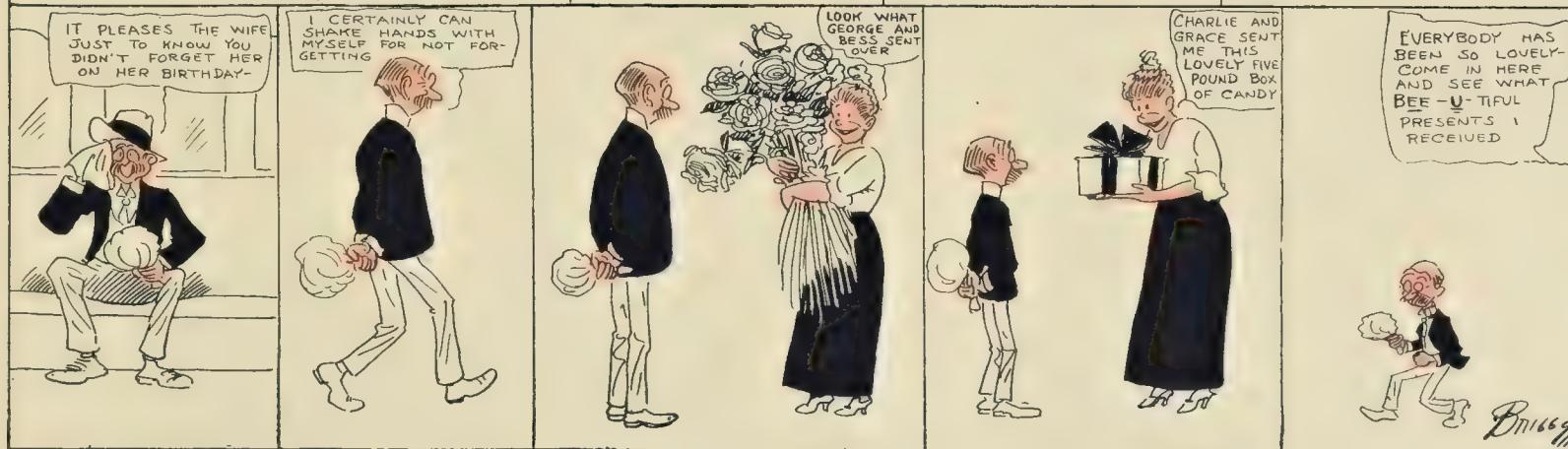




SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE



AT HOME-



OH, MAN!



— OH-H-H GIRLS!
AIN'T IT A
GR-R-R-RAND

AND

GLORYUS
FEELIN'

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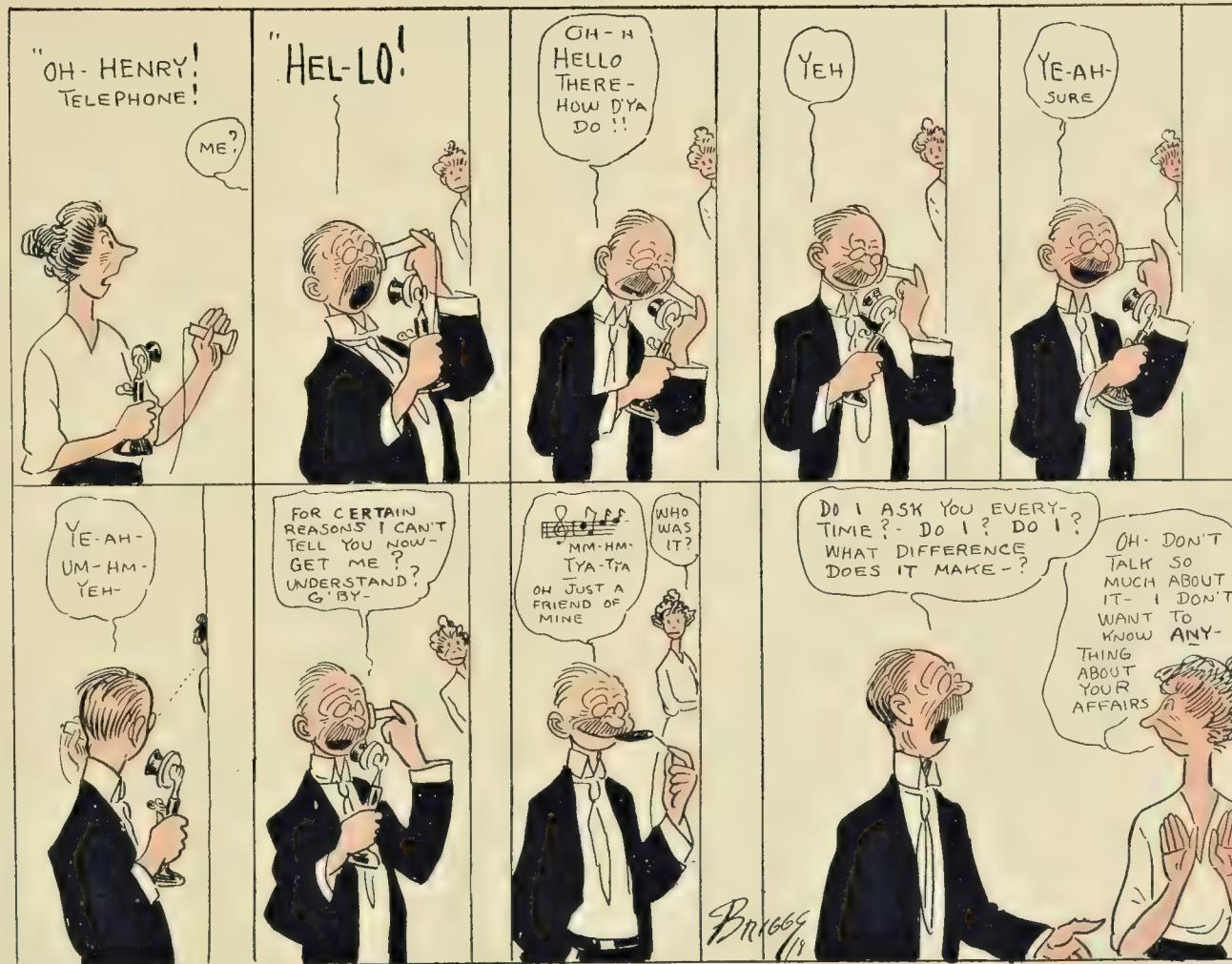
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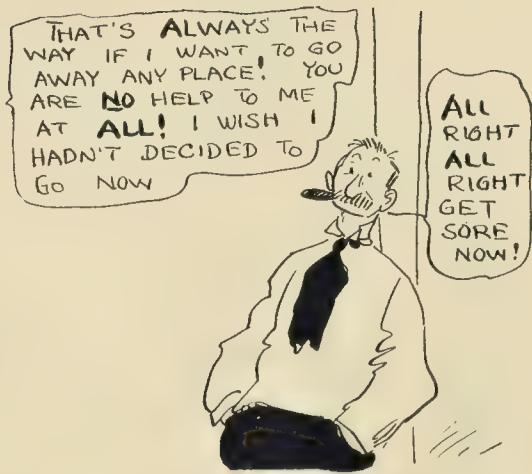
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IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!



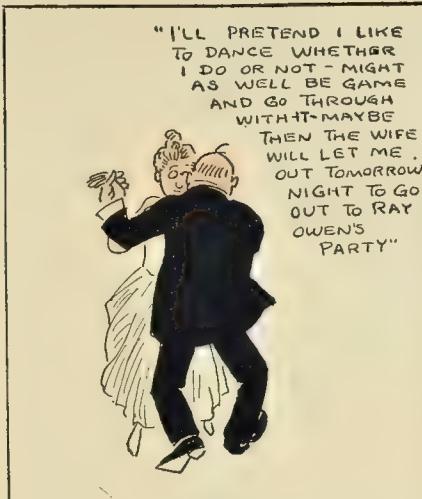
THAT'S ALWAYS THE
WAY IF I WANT TO GO
AWAY ANY PLACE! YOU
ARE NO HELP TO ME
AT ALL! I WISH I
HADN'T DECIDED TO
GO NOW

ALL
RIGHT
ALL
RIGHT
GET
SORE
NOW!



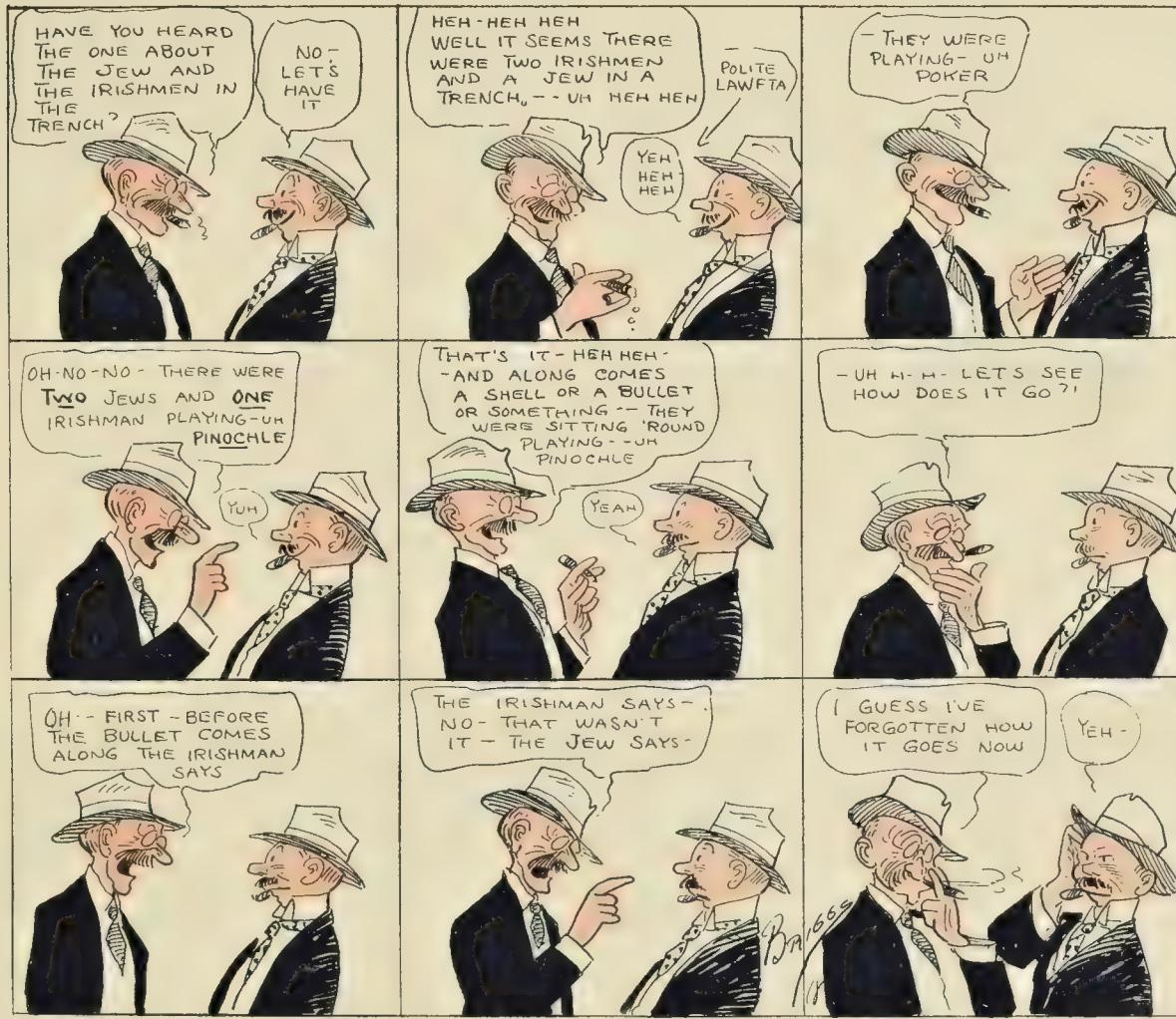
A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE



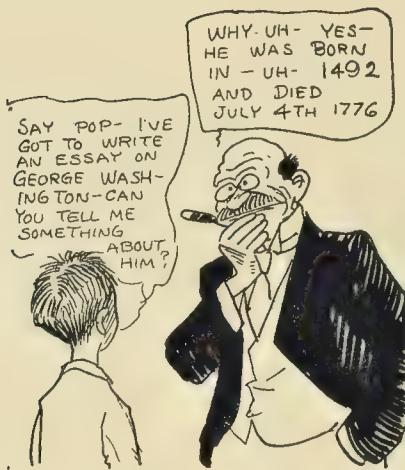


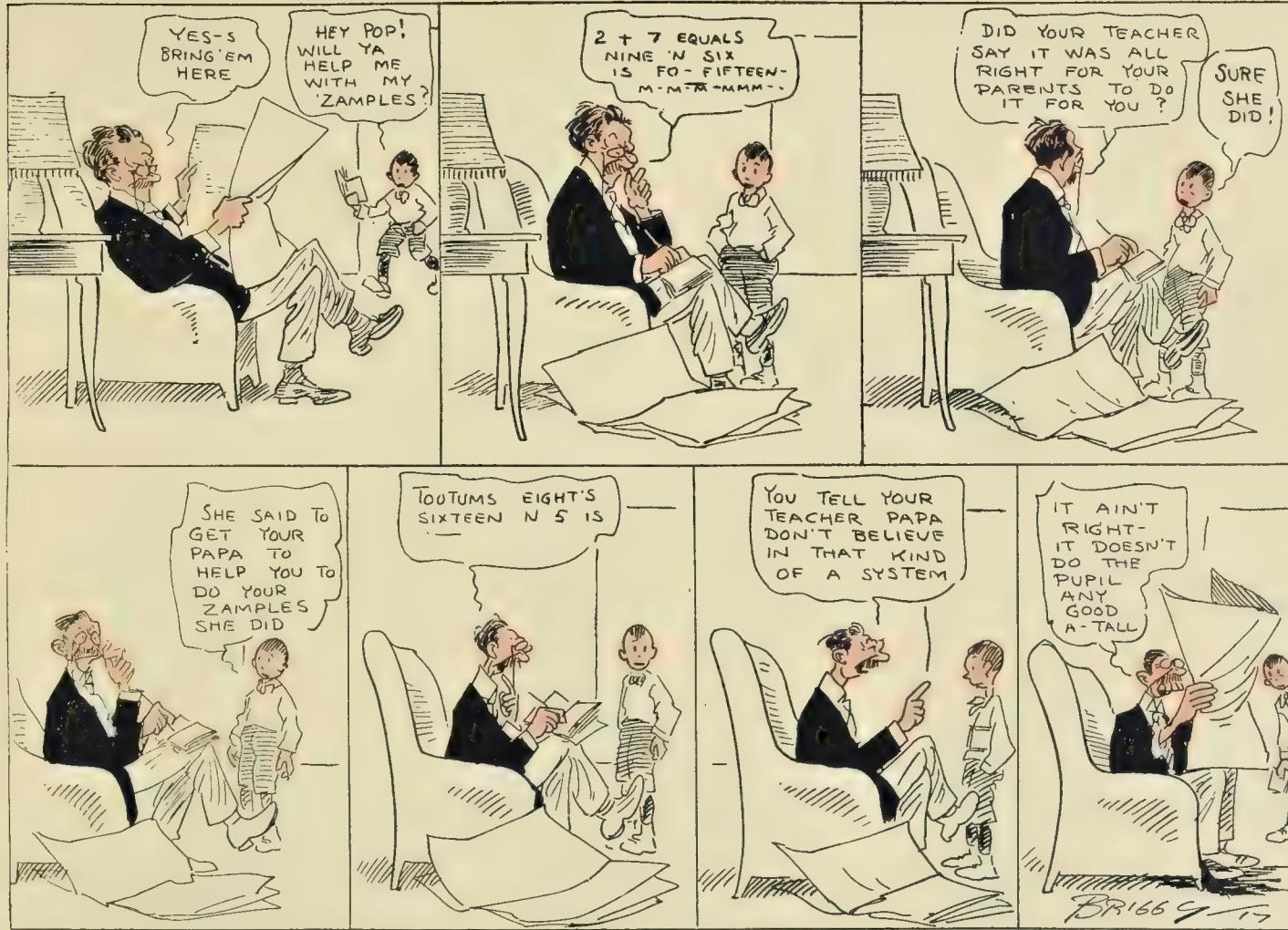
WONDER WHAT A MAN THINKS ABOUT WHILE DANCING WITH HIS WIFE





MOVIE OF A POOR STORY TELLER

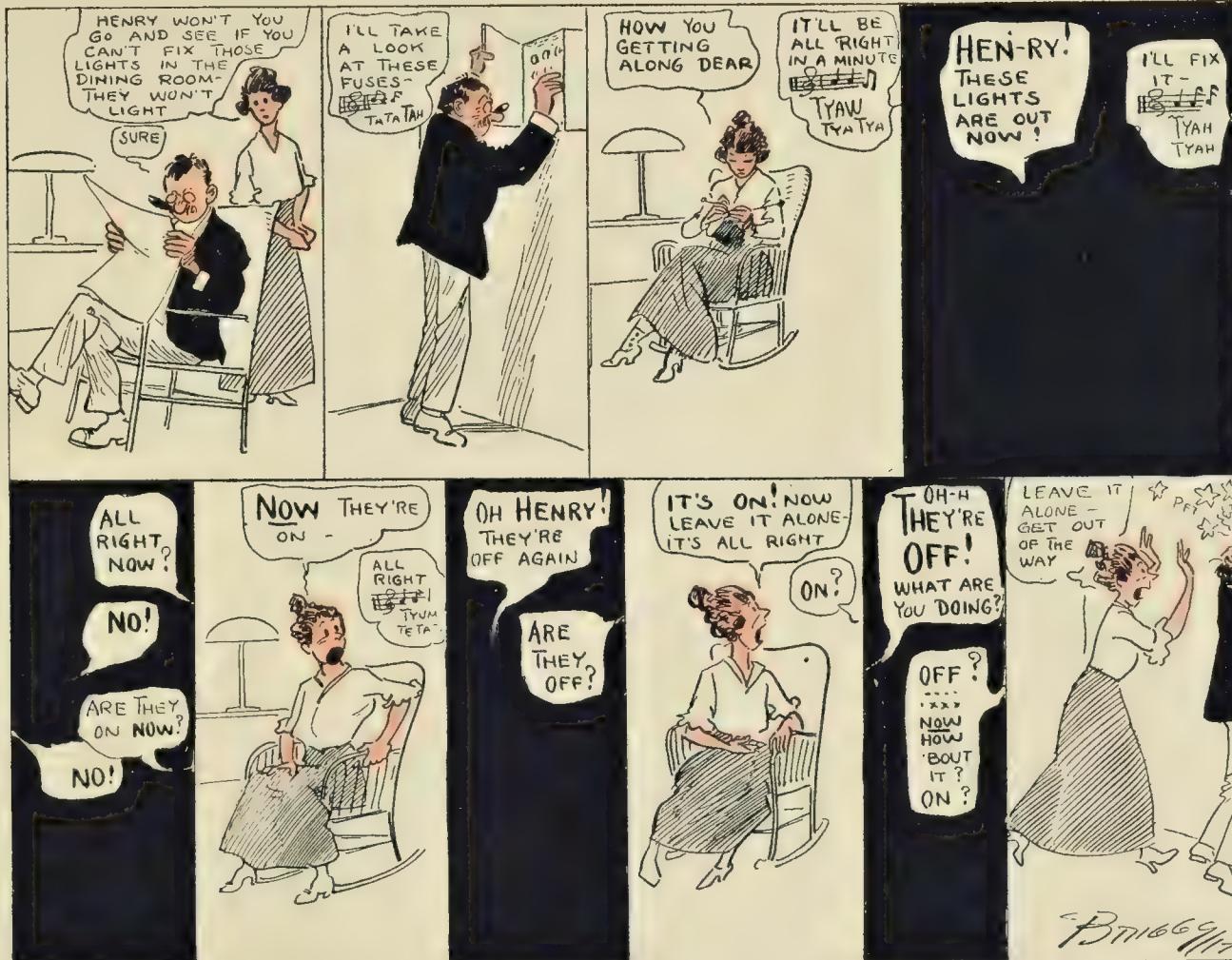




OH, MAN!

I'VE LOOKED EV'RY
PLACE- THERE
AIN'T NO MORE
SYSTEM IN THIS
HOUSE !!-
NOT EVEN
A PIECE
A STRING





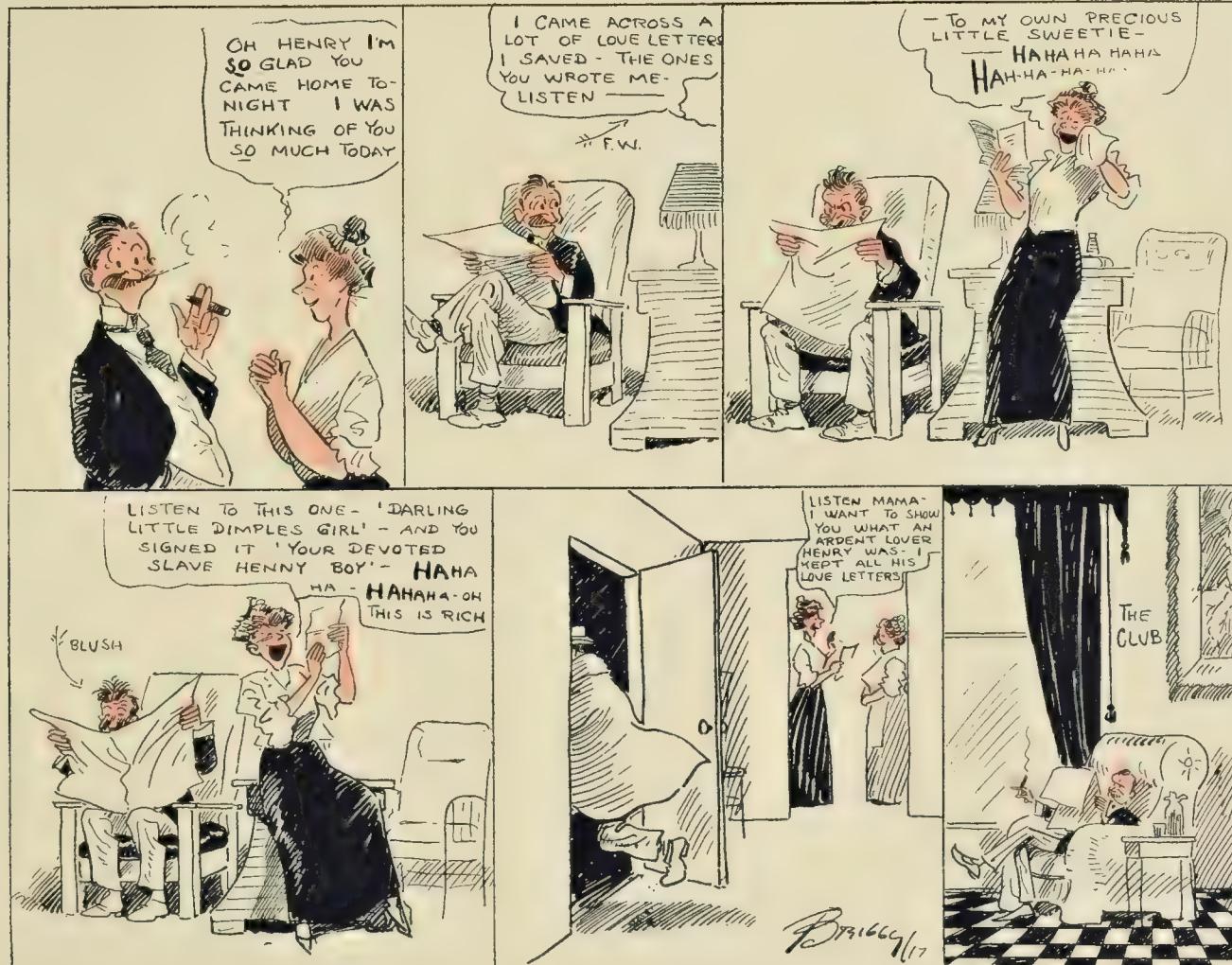
A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE

HA-HA - NO MORE
COUNTRY LIFE FOR
ME IN THE WINTER -
A NICE LITTLE WARM
FLAT FOR ME - NO
MORE COAL WORRY



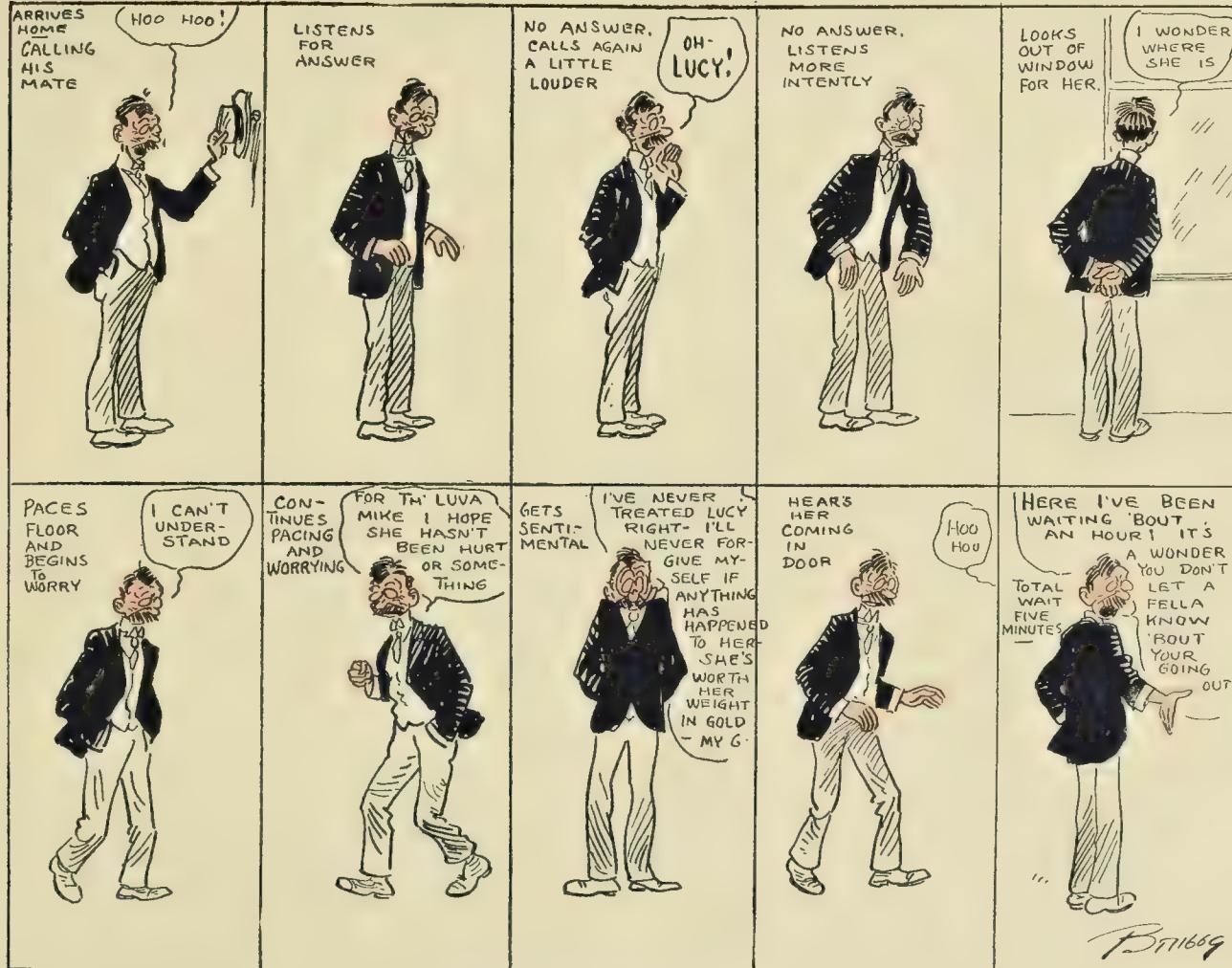






OH, MAN!

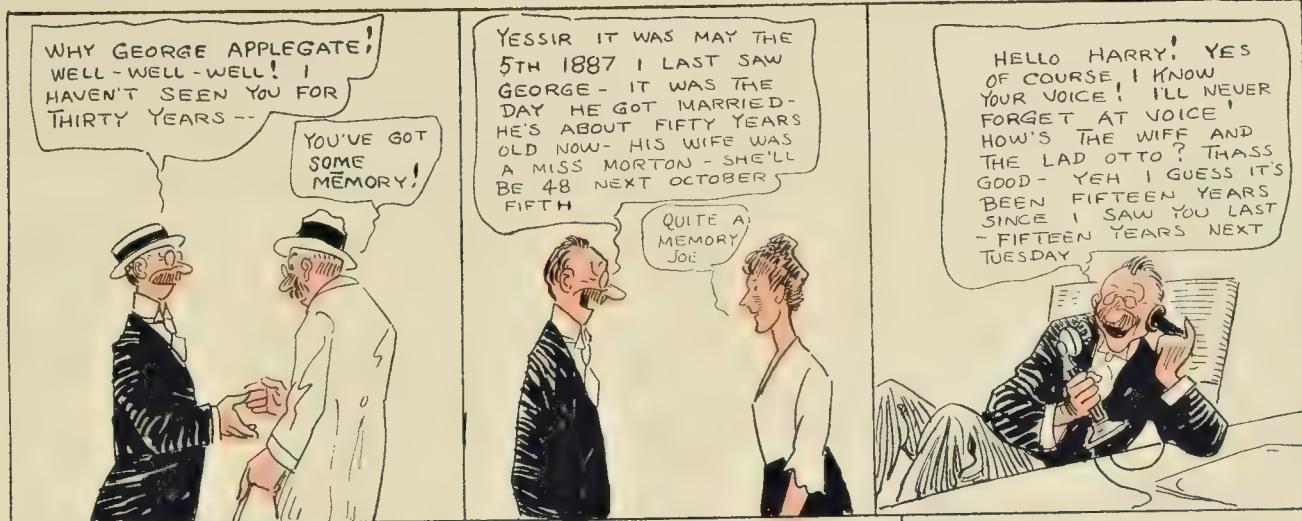




MOVIE OF A MAN ARRIVING HOME EARLY (FOR ONCE)

"DIS CONNECTED!"
!! ?!☆!! † "





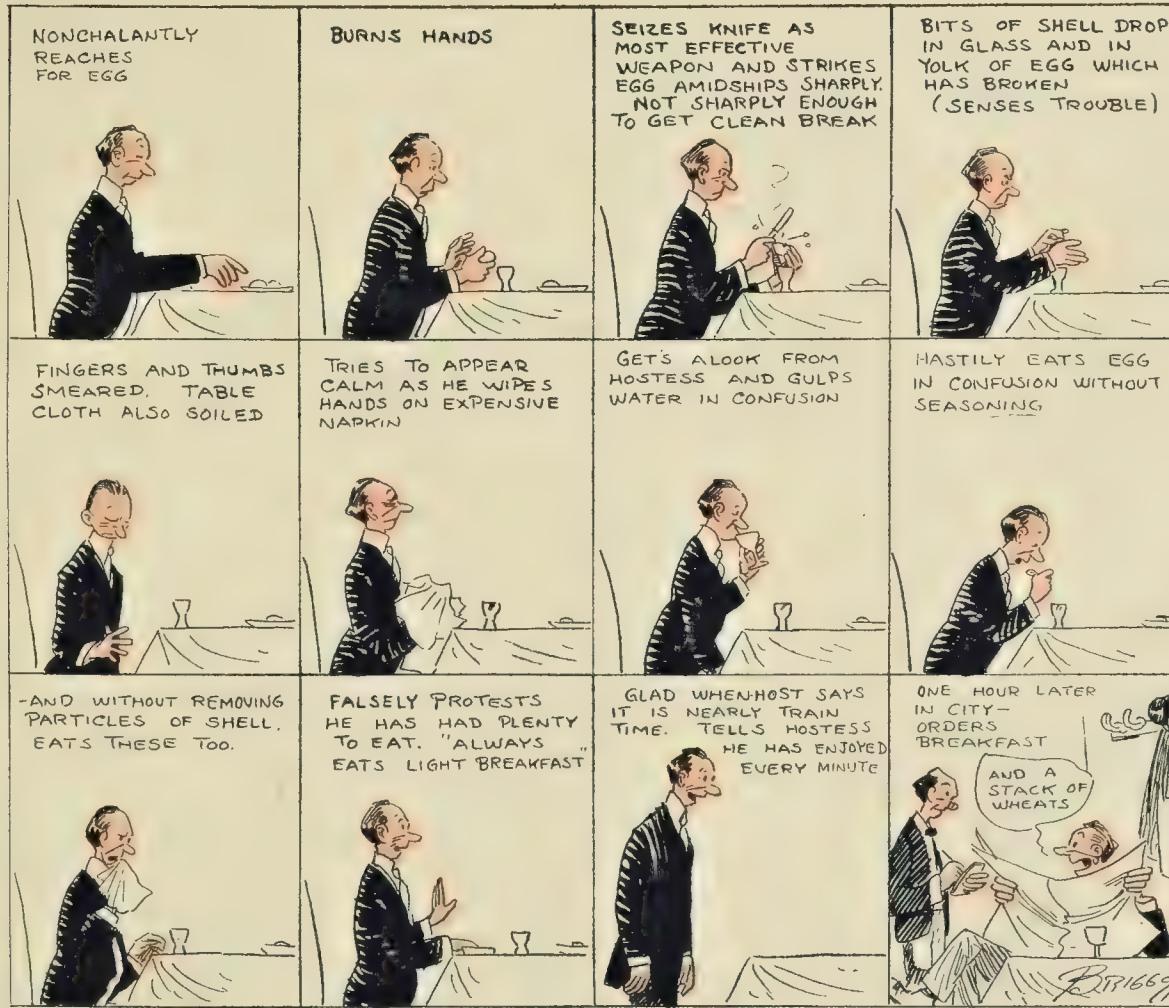
OH, MAN!





OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!





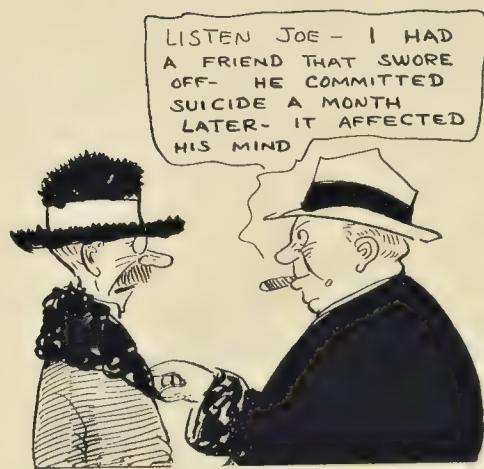
MOVIE OF A GUEST CRACKING A THREE MINUTE EGG

APPLE
PIE





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





MOVIE OF A MAN OPENING MAIL ON THE FIRST OF THE MONTH



"HERE'S THAT SILLY
OLD RATTLE I GOT
FOR CHRISTMAS.
I SPOSE I'VE GOT
TO PLAY WITH IT
OR I'LL OFFEND
MY DAD - HE GAVE
IT TO ME"



"I SHAKE IT AND
MAKE A NOISE WITH
IT JUST TO PLEASE
HIM. WHY NOT
HUMOR HIM - HE
DOESN'T GET MUCH
FUN OUT OF LIFE -
HE WORKS NIGHTS"



"I'M ALWAYS GLAD
WHEN SUNDAY
COMES SO I CAN
HAVE A LOTTA FUN
WITH DAD WHILE
MOTHER'N SISTER
GO TO A CHURCH"



"GUESS I'LL
GO SOMEPLACE"



"SINCE I'VE
LEARNED TO CREEP
I SEE A LOT OF
THE WORLD. IT MAKES
ONE MORE INDEPENDENT"



"OH- BY-THE-WAY!
WHEN DO WE EAT!?"



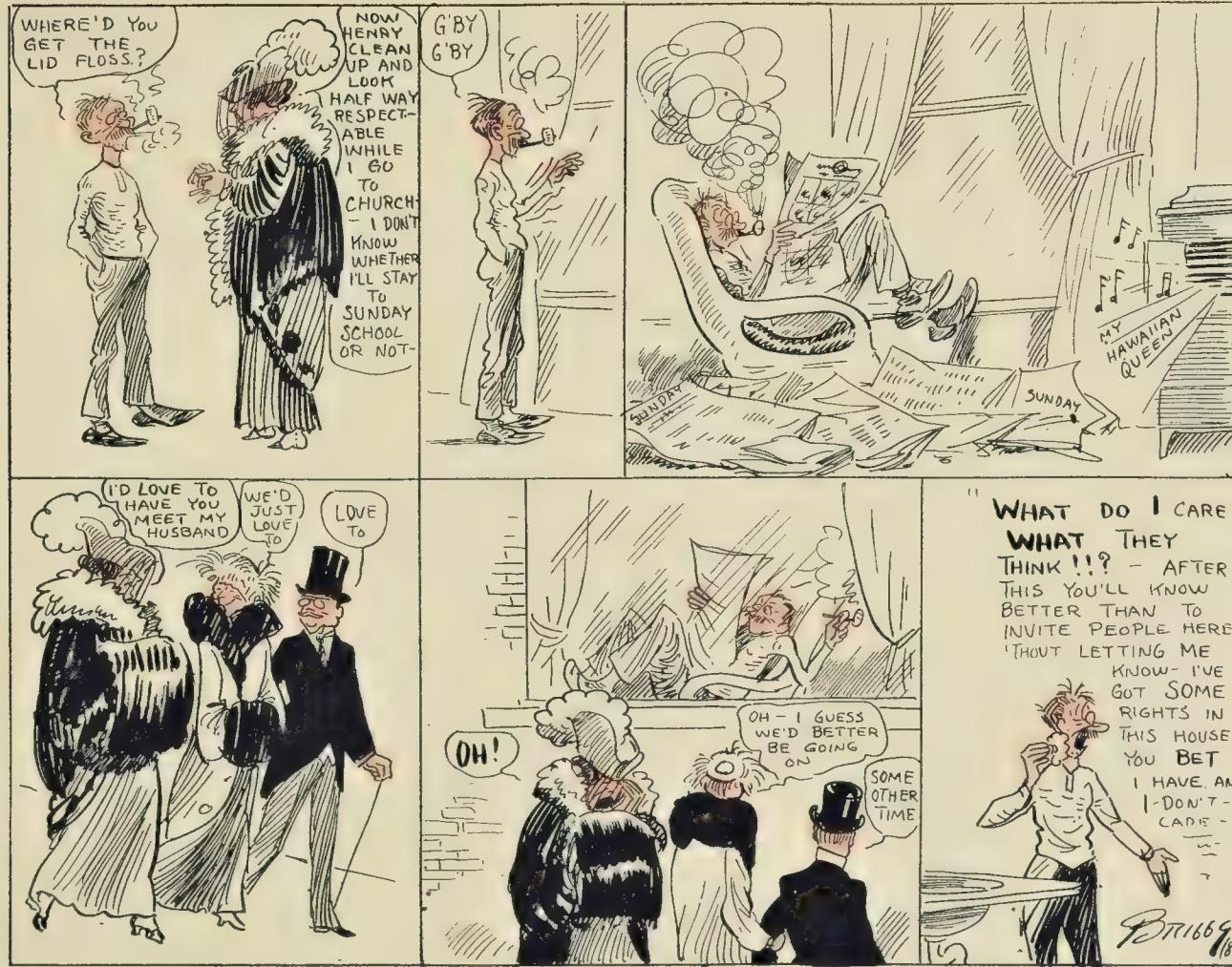
"I JUST PRETENDED
THAT HURT - BUT IT
DIDN'T. I JUST
WANTED TO HIT THE
OLD BOTTLE. PRETTY
SOFT- PRETTY SOFT!"



Briggy

WONDER WHAT A TEN MONTHS OLD BABY THINKS ABOUT





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!

HEY KEEP THAT
MACHINE QUIET
A MINUTE - I CAN'T
HEAR A THING



— A LETTER —
Dear Sirs: —

Your "Movie of a Stenog Doing a Big Days Work" is a very unkind cartoon! How would it do to make one entitled "Movie of a Busy Business Man Dictating a Letter to His Stenog." — thus:

(THE IDEA)

THESE are a few of the woes of a stenographer and you, of course, being fairminded, desire to present both sides of the matter — Yours very truly,
Elinor —
"much Harassed Stenog."

RINGS BUZZER
FOR STENOG



AFTER KEEPING HER
WAITING TEN MINUTES
STARTS DICTATION



THEN LOOKS UP
SOME DATA



IS INTERRUPTED BY
'PHONE SEVERAL TIMES
BY INVITATIONS TO
GOLF, DINNER, ETC



FINALLY FINISHES
LETTER - DISMISSES
STENOGRAFHER.



RECALLS STENOGRAFHER,
WHO BY THIS TIME
HAS WRITTEN LETTER,
STATING THAT HE
DESIRSES TO INSERT
A PARAGRAPH



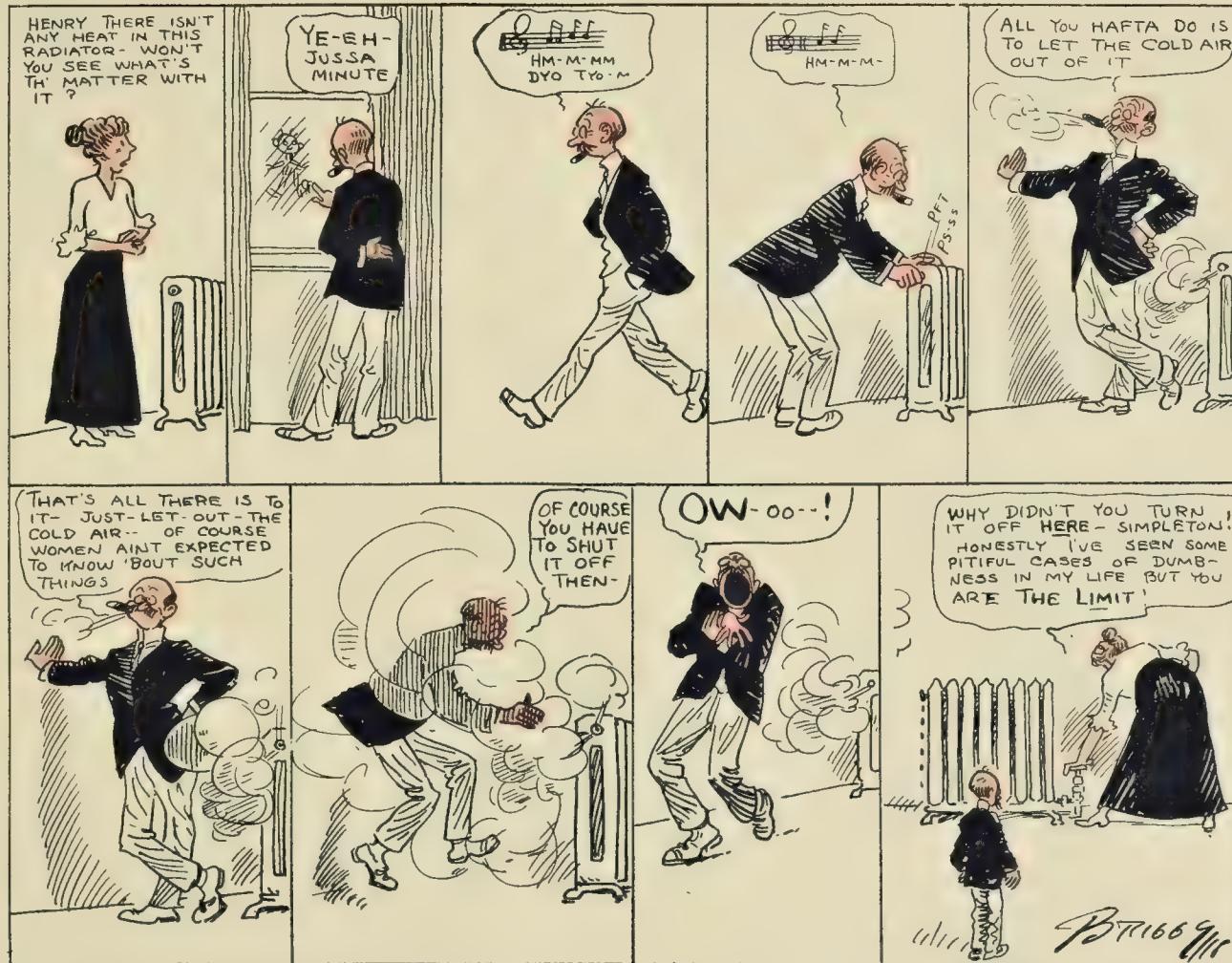
— LATER — AGAIN
RECALLS STENOGRAFHER
STATING THAT MR. BLANK
HAS JUST BEEN TALKING
TO HIM ON THE PHONE,
SO — "NEVER MIND
ABOUT THAT LETTER!"



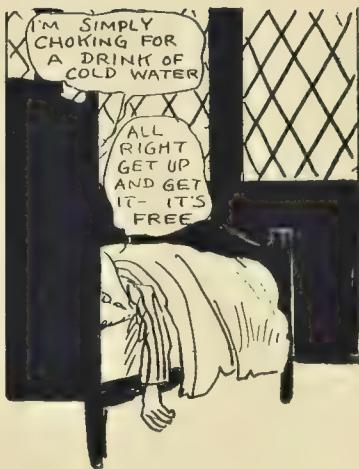
MOVIE OF A BUSY BUSINESS MAN DICTATING A LETTER TO HIS STENOG

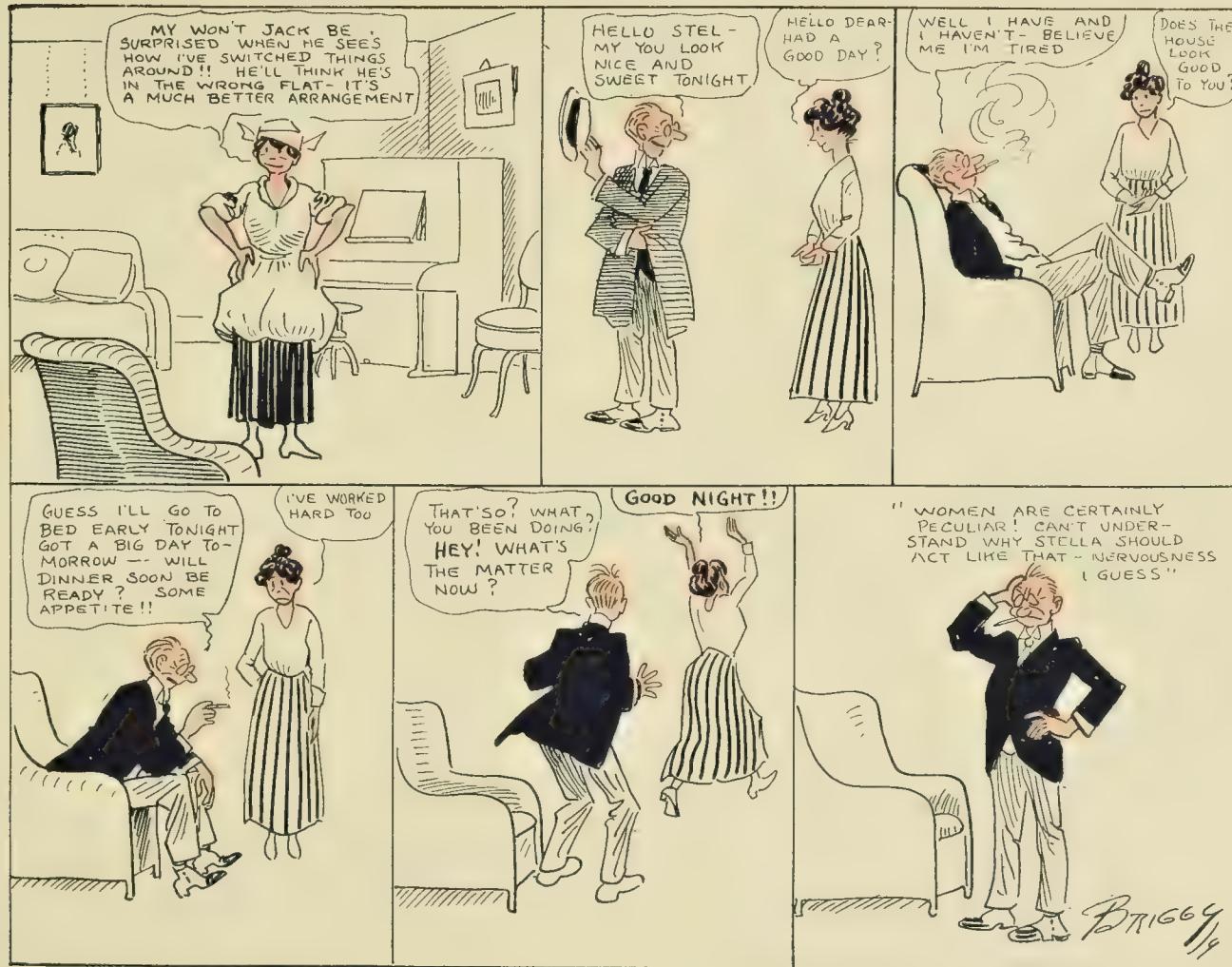
B. BRIGGS
+ E.G.





A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE





OH, MAN!





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!

DON'T LET ME DISSUADE
YOU IN YOUR ATTEMPT
TO DO WHAT YOU THINK IS
RIGHT BUT SCIENCE
TELLS US THAT-



PRETTY LUCKY THEY HAVE ME FOR MUSIC DIRECTOR. BELIEVE ME I'VE PULLED THIS SHOW TOGETHER AND MADE IT A SUCCESS



I THINK THE PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE ARE IMPRESSED WITH MY PERSONAL APPEARANCE, THAT TRAP DRUMMER GIVES ME A PAIN- ALWAYS FLIRTING WITH A CHORUS DAME



I SHALL AFFECT A CARELESS EASY MANNER AND LOOK THE AUDIENCE OVER... NOT A BAD HOUSE - NOT BAD.



NOW FOR A LITTLE FANCY WORK. I'LL BET THE AUDIENCE WATCHES ME AS MUCH AS ANY OF THESE BUM ACTORS



I'LL SMILE AT THE PRINCIPAL ACTOR OCCASIONALLY JUST SO THE AUDIENCE'LL REALIZE I KNOW 'IM IT MAKES AN IMPRESSION.



IT FLATTERS THE ACTOR TOO. HELLO - THERE'S CAMILLE AND ELLA BACK AGAIN. I'LL GIVE THEM A SMILE TOO JUST TO SHOW'EM I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN 'EM.



I WONDER WHO CAMILLE IS FLIRTING WITH IN THE AUDIENCE. I'LL GIVE HIM A NASTY LOOK AND SQUELCH IM.



WELL I'VE PUT THAT ACT OVER AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'D DO WITHOUT ME -



Pat 1669 19

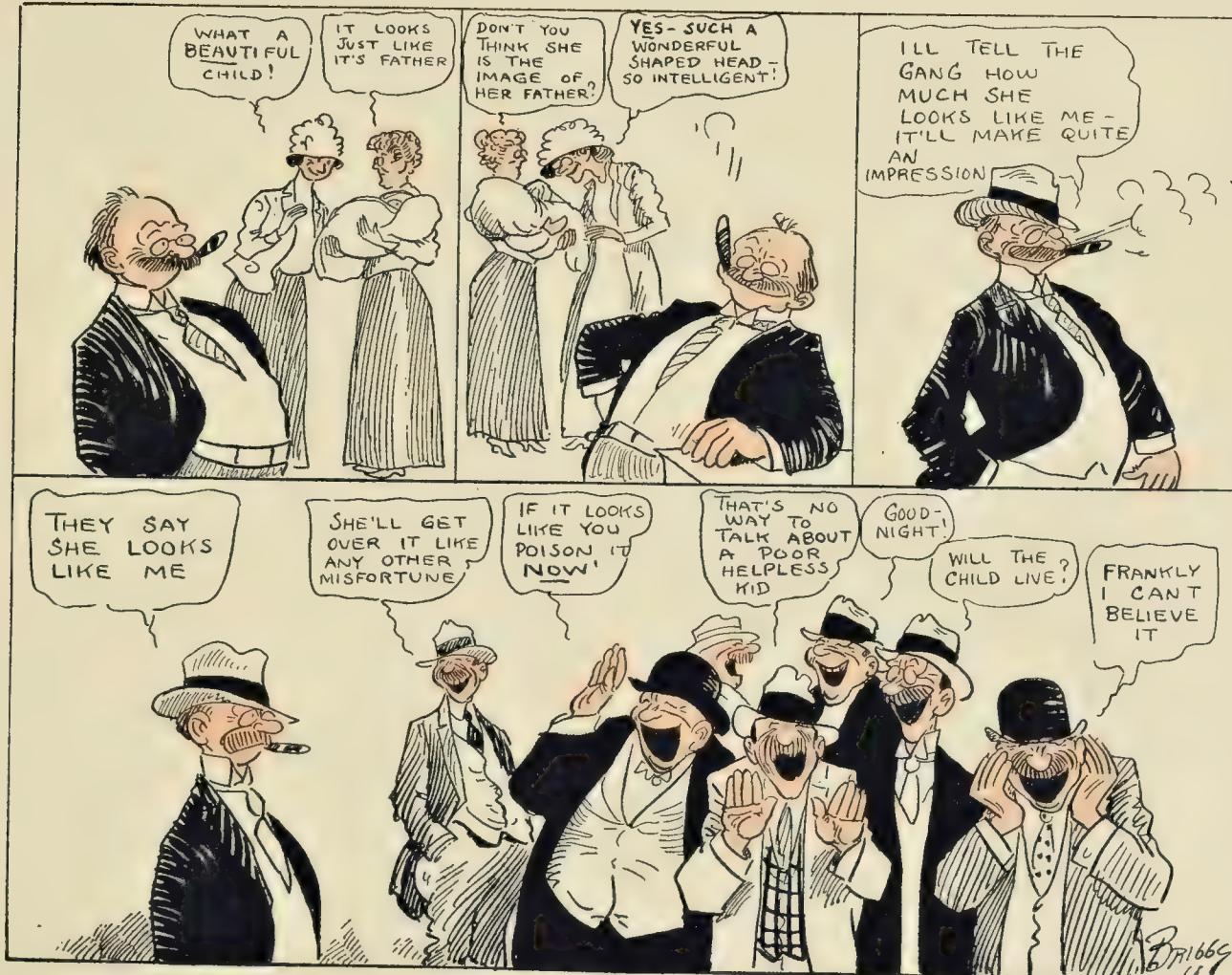
WONDER WHAT THE ORCHESTRA LEADER THINKS ABOUT





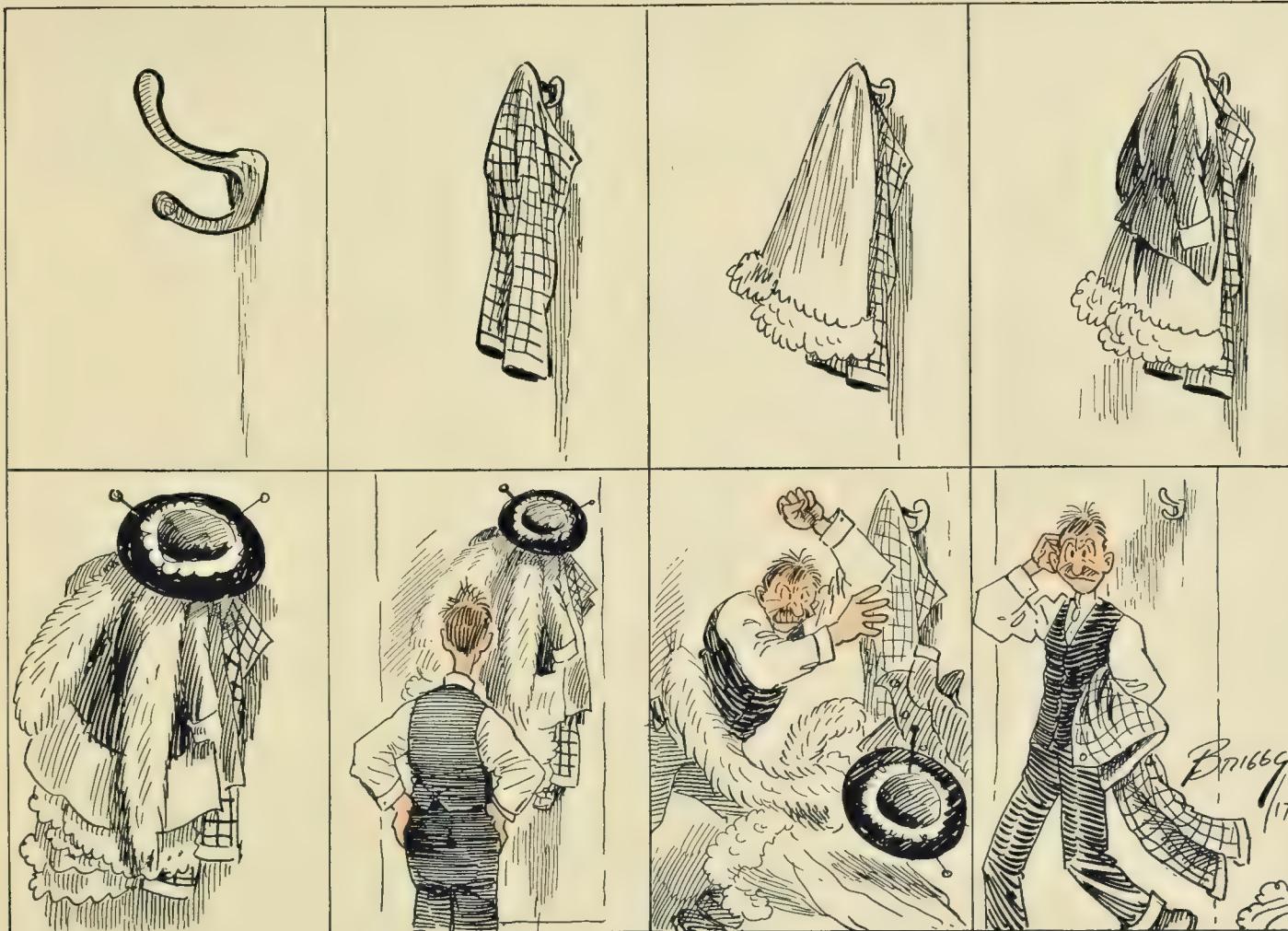
MOVIE OF A MAN WITH A TIME-TABLE



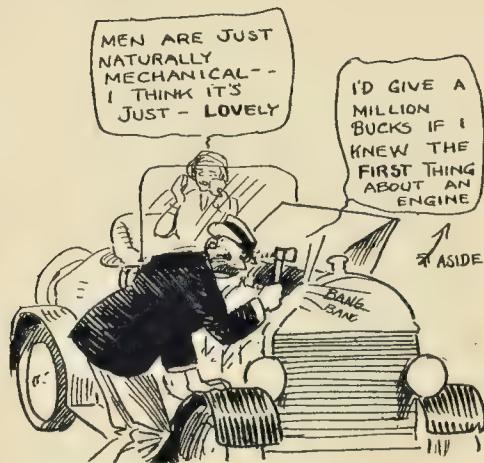


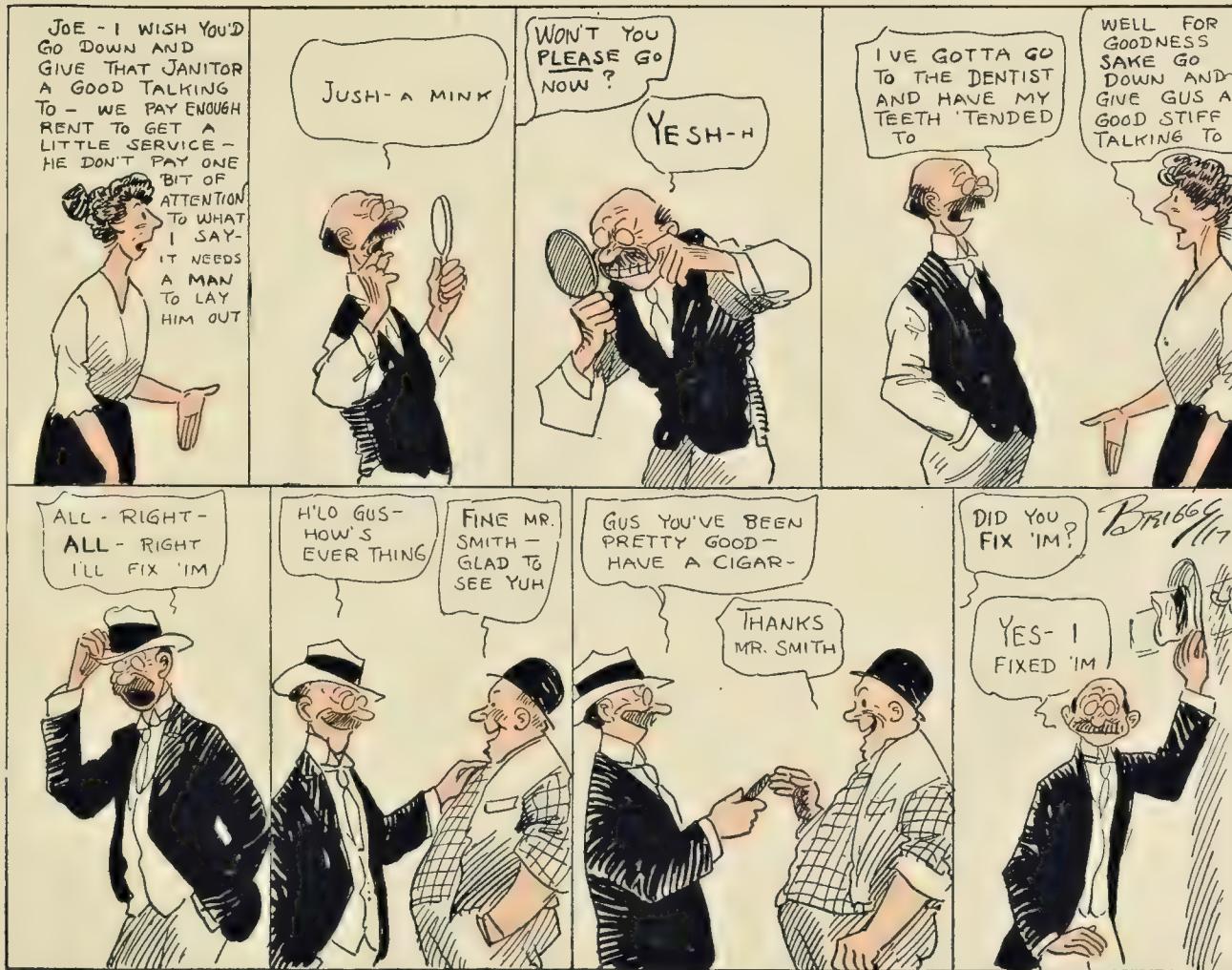
SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!



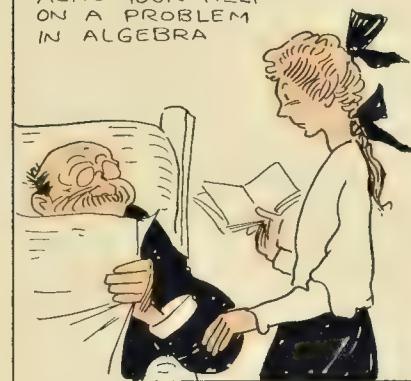


OH, MAN!

BOSS LEAVES
FOR THE DAY



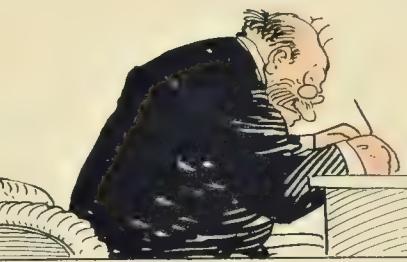
WHEN ABOUT 35 YEARS
AFTER YOU HAVE STUDIED
ALGEBRA, YOUR HIGH-SCHOOL
DAUGHTER COMES TO YOU
SOME EVENING AND
ASKS YOUR HELP
ON A PROBLEM
IN ALGEBRA



AND YOU HAVE A VAGUE
RECOLLECTION OF A BOOK
FILLED WITH ALL THE X'S
AND Y'S IN THE WORLD



AND YOUR PRIDE AS THE
SO-CALLED MASTER OF
THE HOUSE, DEMANDS THAT
YOU MAKE A TRY AT IT



AND YOU SPEND A
MISERABLE HALF HOUR
GUESSING AT HOW TO
ARRANGE ALL THOSE
X'S AND Y'S



AND - AFTER MAKING SEVERAL
TRIALS - ALL OF A SUDDEN
YOU MAKE ONE FINAL EFFORT,
THAT PROVES YOUR
RESULT - IS **RIGHT!**

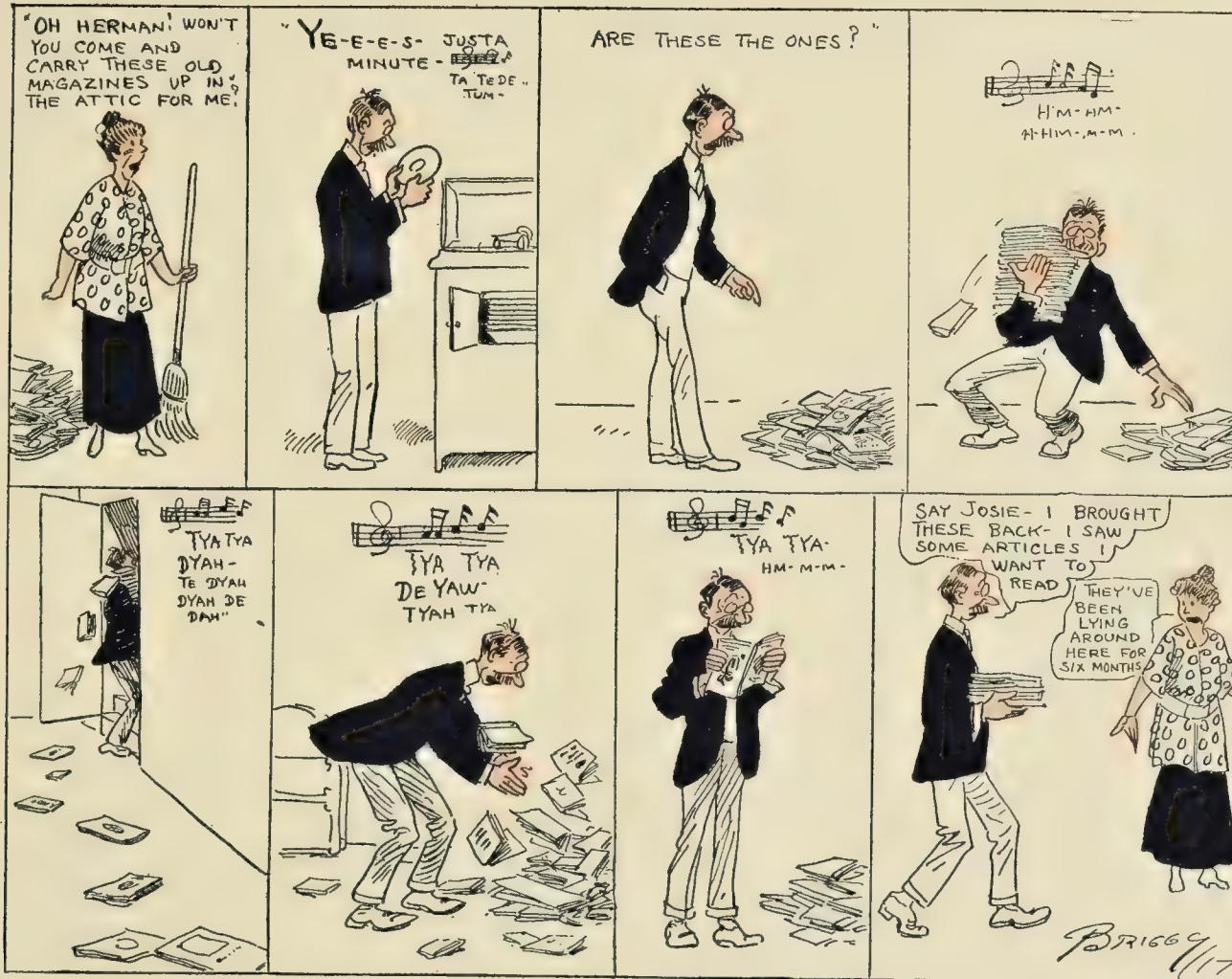


OH BOY! AIN'T IT
A **GR-R-R-RAND**
AND
GLOR-R-R-YUS
FEELIN'?



OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!





A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE

HELLO DEAR- HELLO
HONEY- LISTEN DEAR
I'M BRINGING A FRIEND

OUT TO
SPEND THE
NIGHT-
WILL IT
BE C

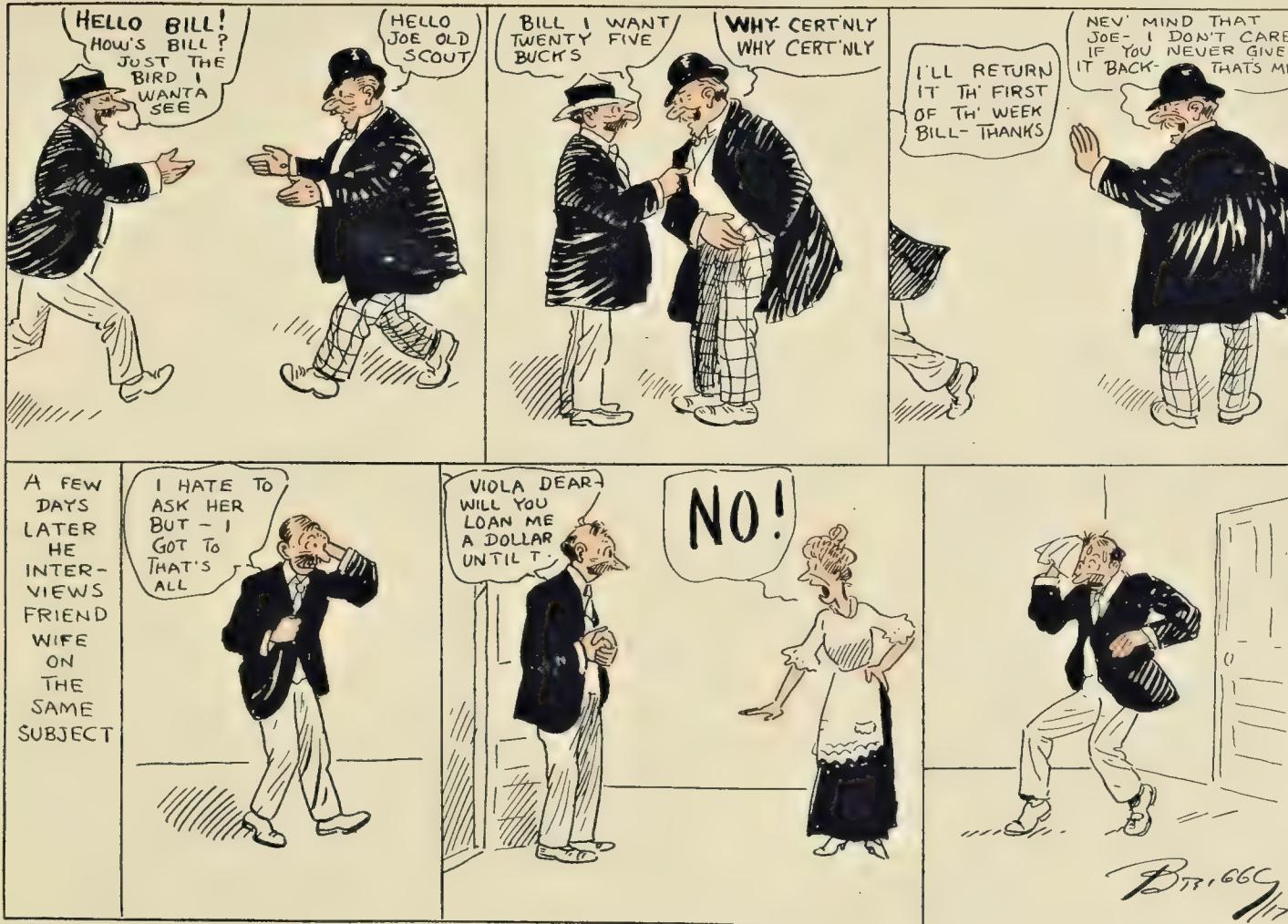




OH, MAN!

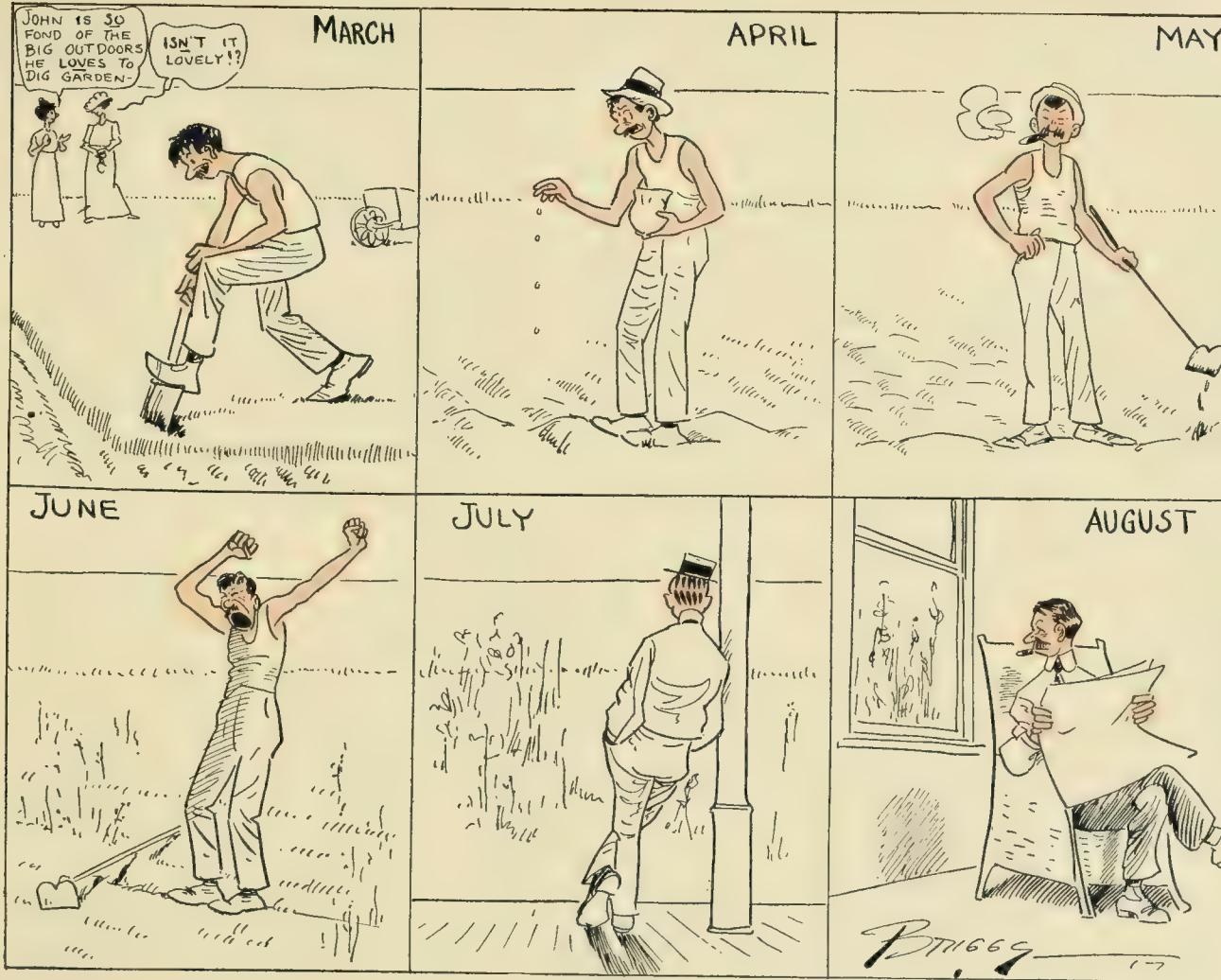
NO! IT WILL NOT
BE ALL RIGHT-- DON'T
YOU DARE BRING HIM
OUT HERE --- HE'LL
GET NO
WELCOME
FROM ME
IF YOU DO
YOU OUGHT
TO KNOW
BETTER





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!

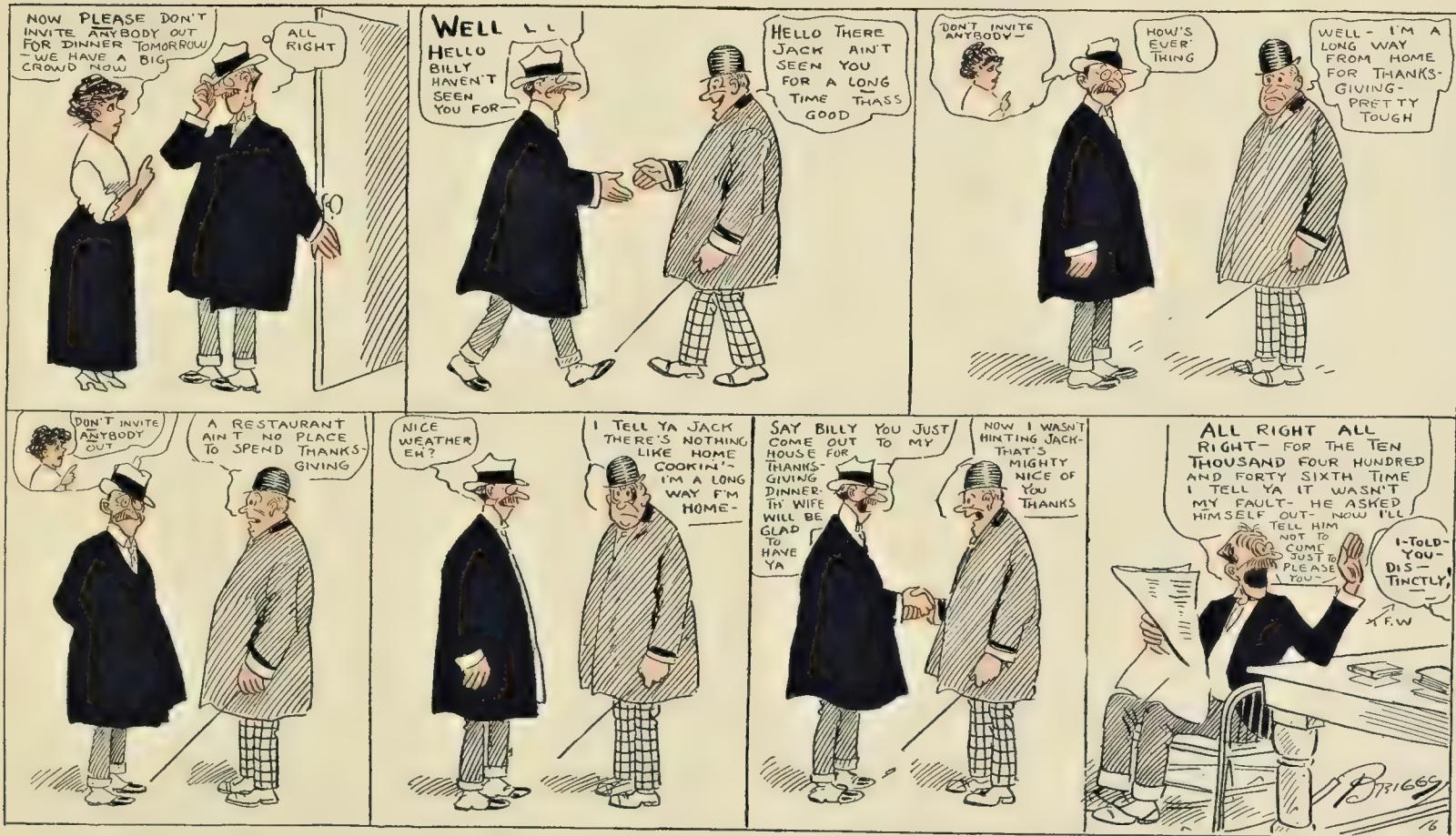




OH, MAN!

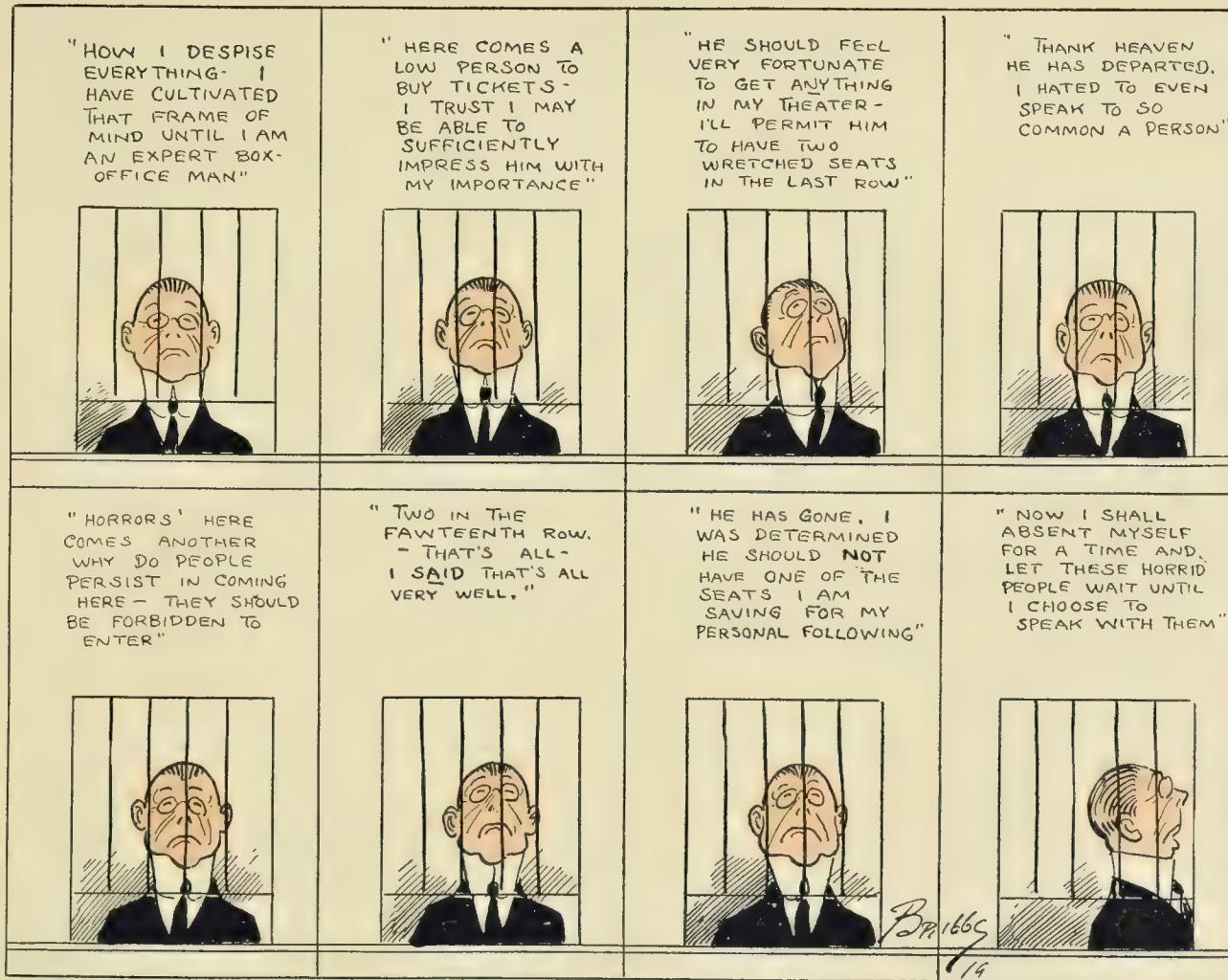
THE ELECTRIC FAN
AND THE COLD DRINK.
(HARD AT 'WORK')





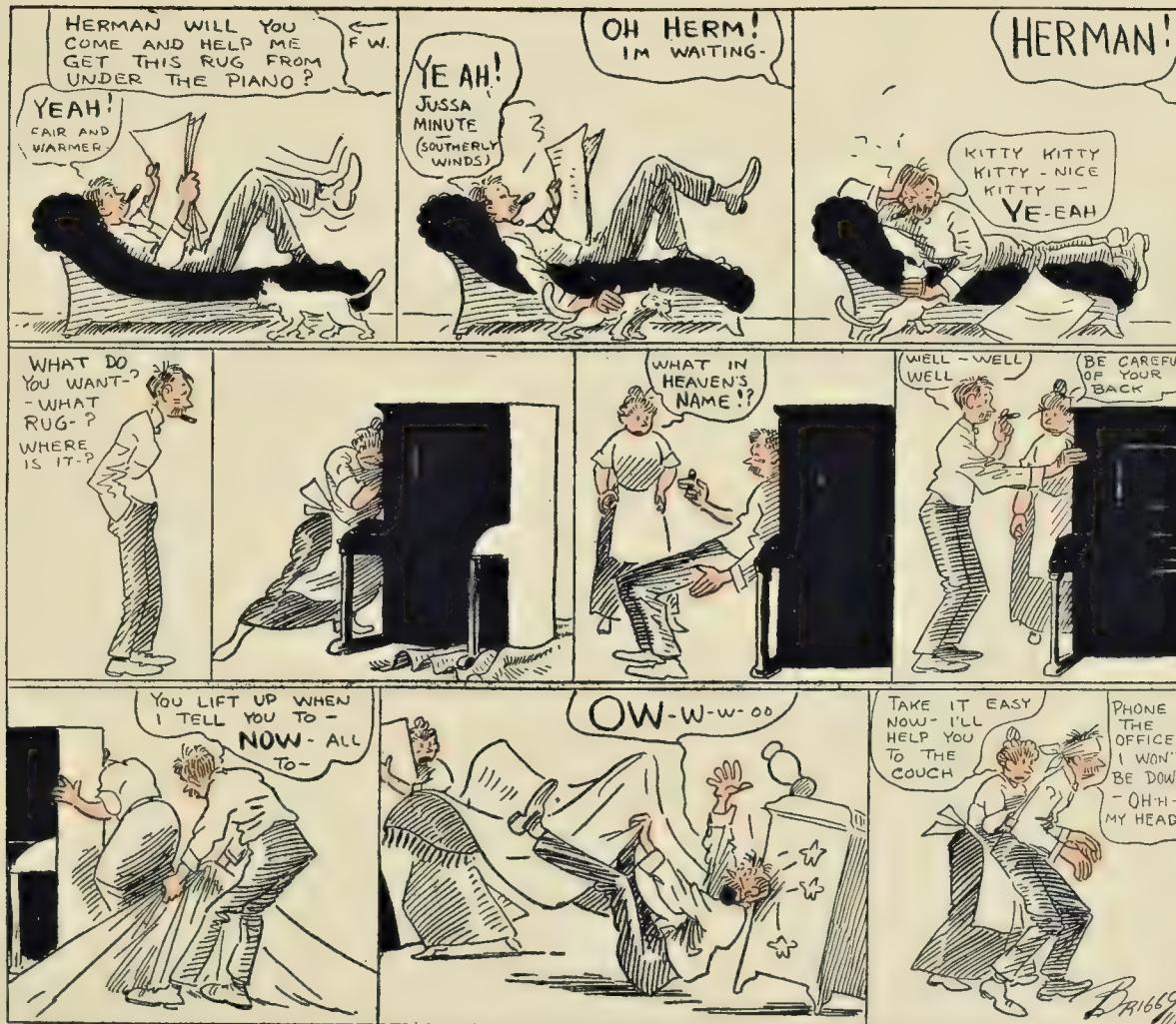
IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





WONDER WHAT A THEATRE BOX OFFICE MAN THINKS ABOUT





A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE





SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE



AND TO AVOID HOSTILITIES
YOU SNEAK QUIETLY UP STAIRS



IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!

"THAT'S - ALL-L-L RIGHT!
NEV' MIND 'BOUT MY FOLKS,
THEY HAD JUST AS GOOD
TASTE AS YOURS-- YOU
GOT NOTHIN' TO 'BRAG
ABOUT." ETC.

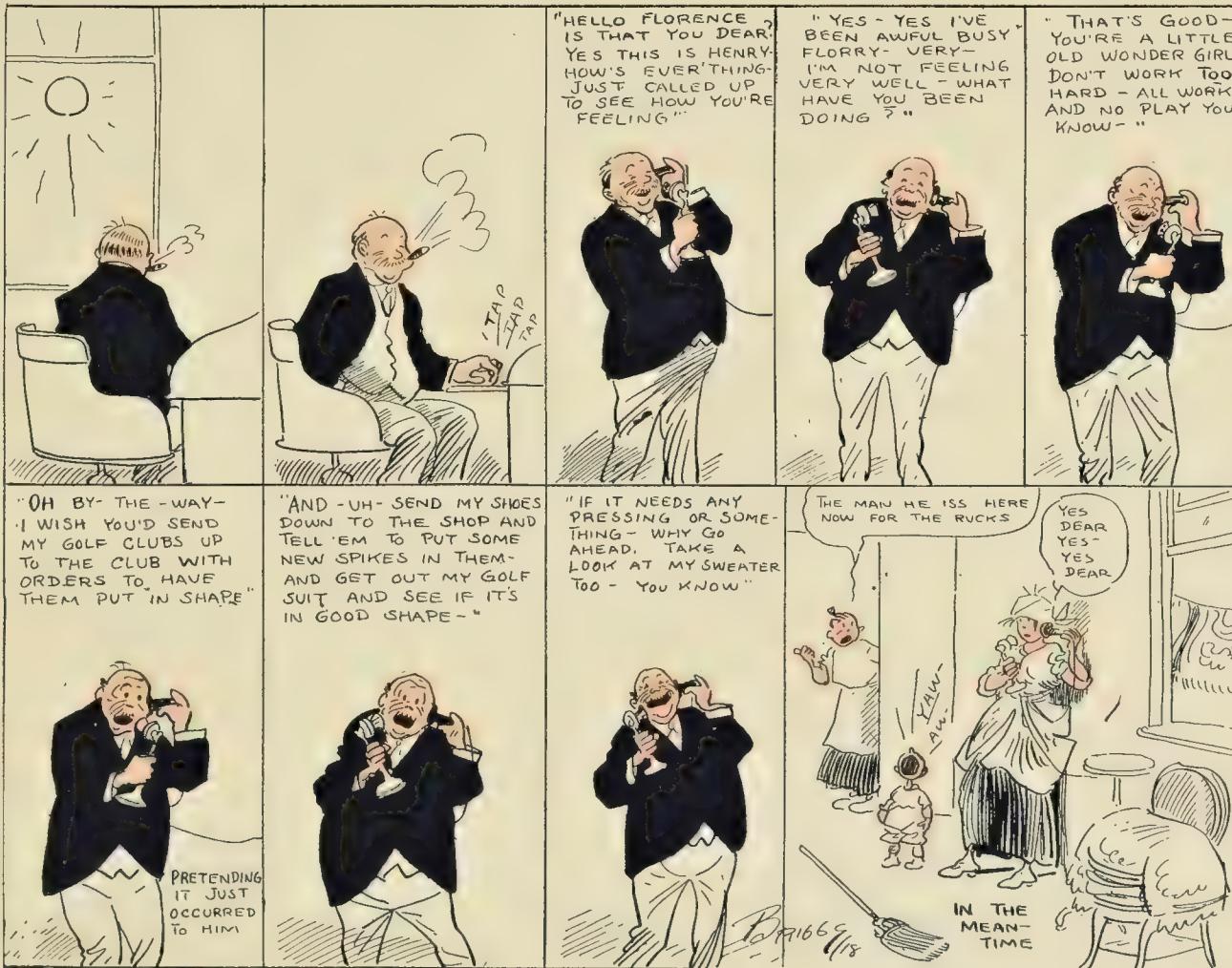




MOVIE OF A MAN CHECKING UP FRIEND WIFE'S ACCOUNT

Briggs

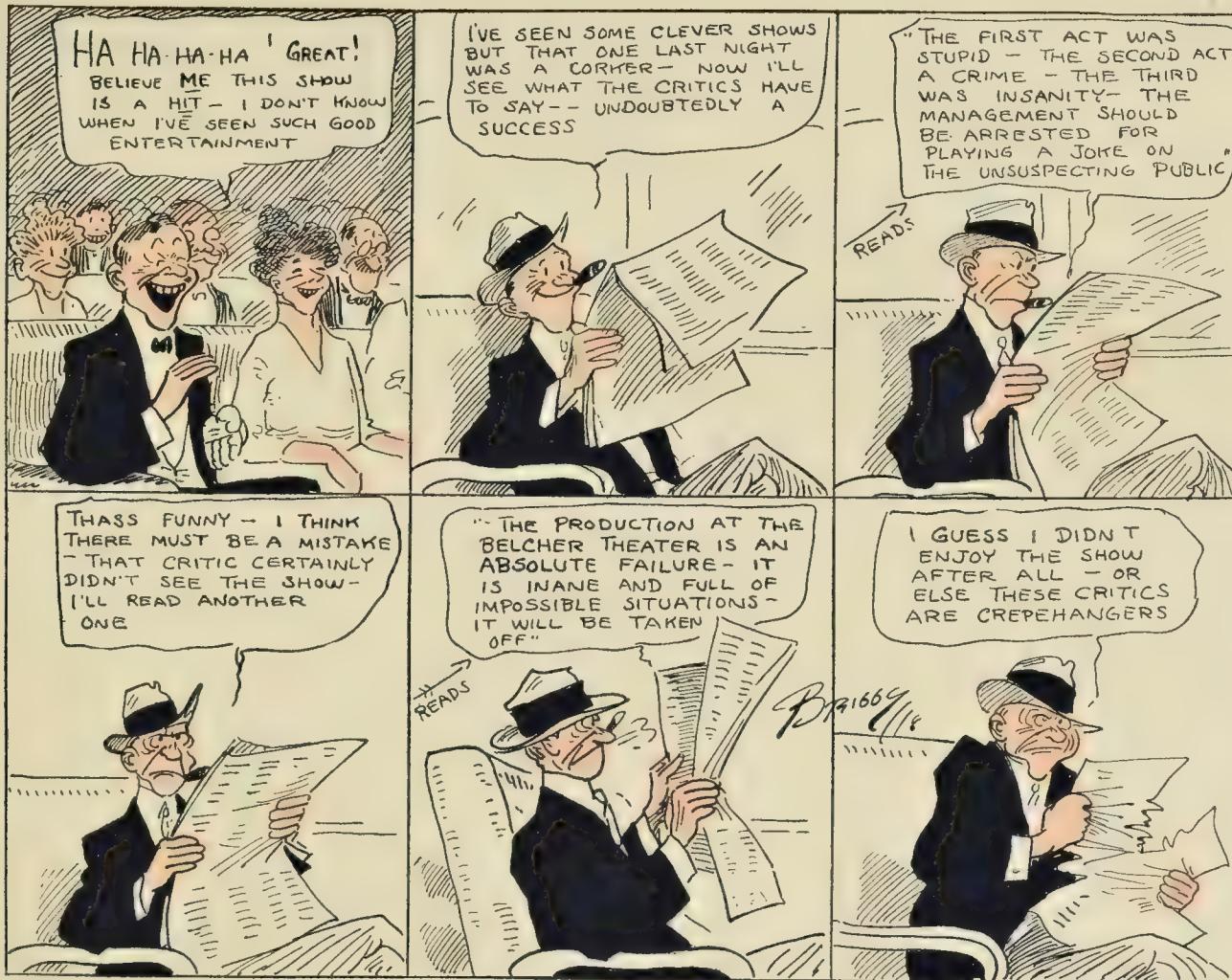




OH, MAN!

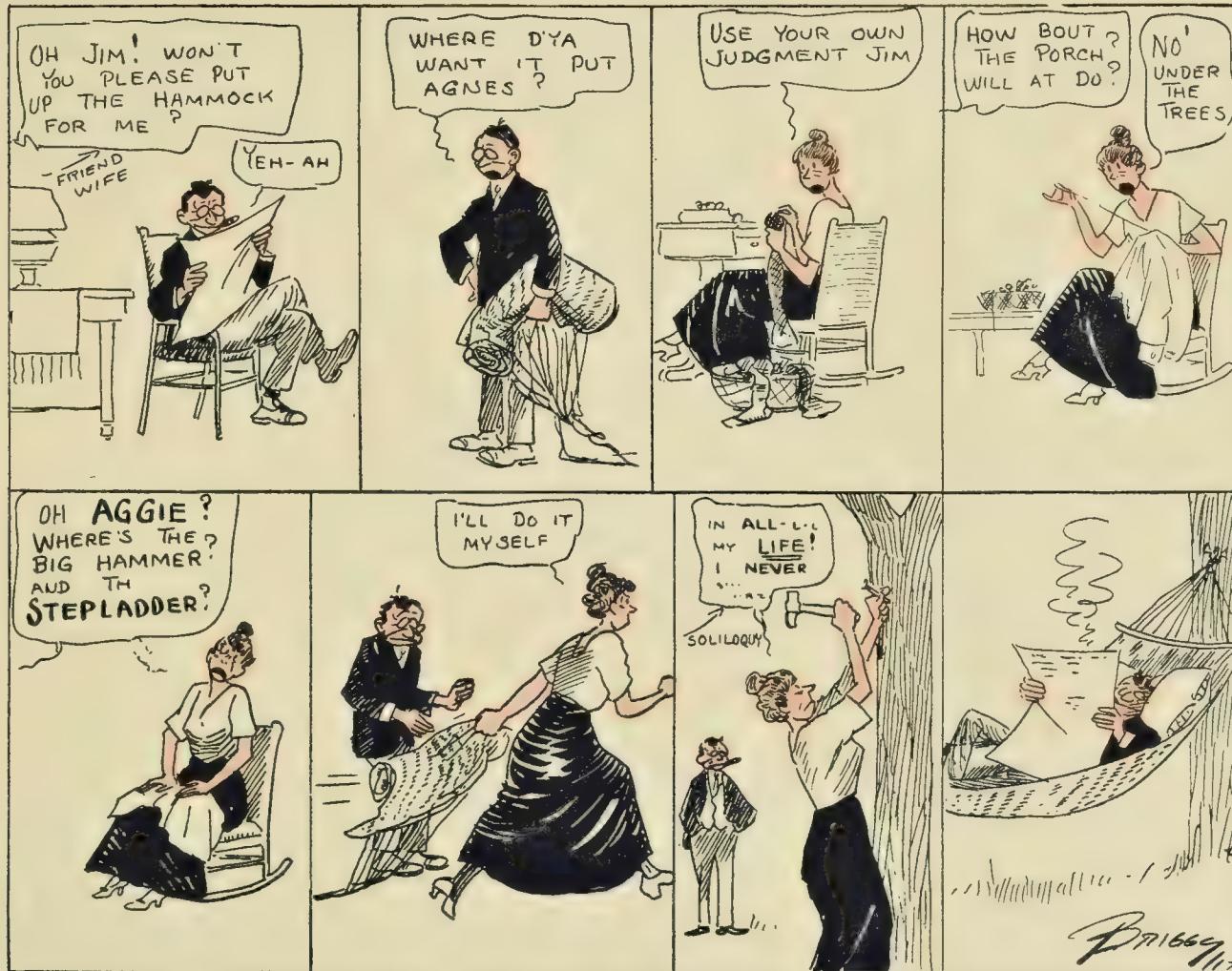
- THE BIRDS AND
FLOWERS AND ALL
THE WONDERFUL -
BEE-U-TIFUL
WORKS OF NATURE
ON OUR PLANET





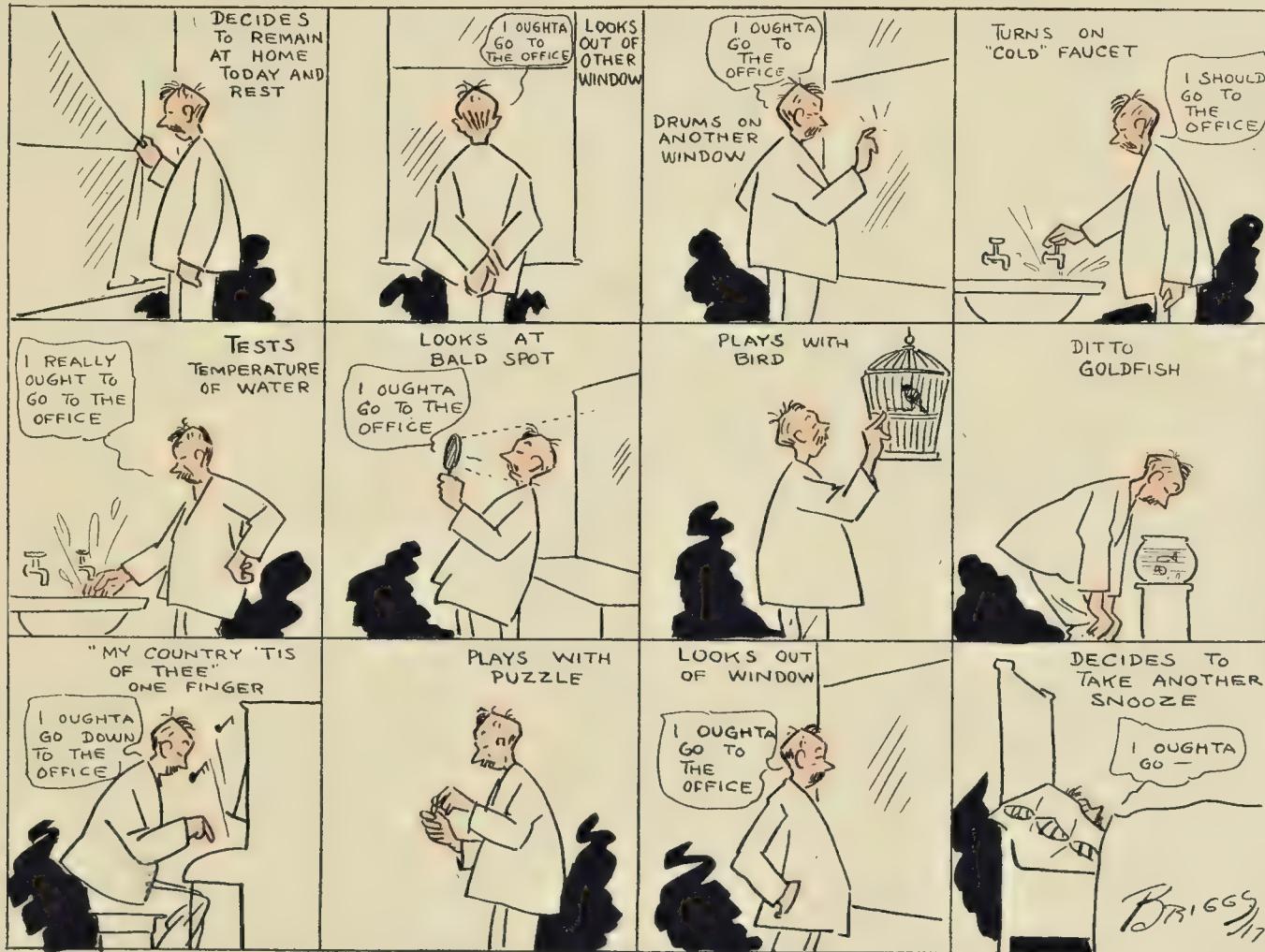
SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE





A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE





MOVIE OF A MAN AT HOME WHOSE TIME IS SUPPOSED TO BE WORTH MONEY



ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME

"OVER THERE! GOSH
I GET TIRED HEARING
THAT TUNE! I COULD
WRITE A BETTER ONE
MYSELF - I NEVER
COULD SEE COHAN'S
STUFF ANYHOW"



BELIEVE ME OUR
LEADER HAS ONE
SWELLED NUT! HOW
HE HATES HIMSELF"



GOSH I HOPE AGNES
WILL HAVE A GOOD BIG
MEAL READY WHEN I
GET HOME ----- IF
I EVER DO"



"SHE'LL PROB'LY GIVE ME
THE RAZZ FOR BEING OUT
LATE LAST NIGHT!"



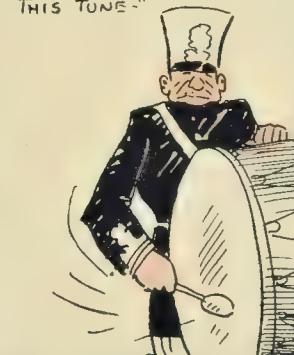
"SHE DON'T TAKE INTO
CONSIDERATION THAT
I'VE GOT TO LUG
THIS -- -- PAN
AROUND ALL DAY



"THAT LOOKS LIKE MIKE
BOTT'S OVER THERE -
THE BIG STIFF! WHY
DON'T HE PAY ME THE
TWO BITS HE OWES ME?"



"I'D LIKE TO GIVE HIM
A WALLOP OVER THE
HEAD WITH THIS STICK -
SOME DAME HE'S GOT
WITH 'IM! -- THERE I
HOPE THIS IS THE LAST
TIME WE PLAY
THIS TUNE!"



"OH WHAT A LIFE!"



WONDER WHAT A BASS DRUMMER THINKS ABOUT



AFTER YOU GET BAWLED
OUT FOR BEING A
FEW MINUTES LATE
AT THE OFFICE



- AND IMPUDENT COLLECTORS
COME AROUND AND
THREATEN YOU



AND YOU ARE
GLARED AT ON
THE STREET IF
YOU ACCIDENTALLY
BUMP INTO SOME-
BODY



- AND INFORMATION CLERKS
GIVE YOU THE CUSTOMARY
COLD STARE



- AND JUST WHEN YOU
DECIDE THE MILK OF
HUMAN KINDNESS HAS
BEEN SKIMMED AND
YOU FEEL AWFULLY
BLUE



YOU ARRIVE IN THE BOSOM OF YOUR
FAMILY - OH-H-H-H AIN'T IT
A GR-R-R-R RAND AND GLOR-
E-YUS FEELIN'?



OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!

- AND A \$4.60 TAXI
BILL BESIDES! SOME-
BODY IS ALWAYS
TAKING JOY OUT OF
LIFE- OH RAWTHUM!





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!



AFTER YOU'VE WAITED AND
WAITED FOR YOUR ANNUAL
TWO WEEKS VACATION
WITHOUT ANY ENCOURAGEMENT



- AND THE BOSS SAYS HE
IS SHORT OF HELP AND
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR
A MORE OPPORTUNE TIME



- AND YOU SLAVE FOR A
COUPLE OF WEEKS MORE



- AND FINALLY ONE DAY
YOU ARE SUMMONED TO
THE BOSS' OFFICE



AND HE TELLS YOU TO TAKE
A THREE WEEKS REST ON
FULL PAY - AND THERE'LL BE
A SALARY INCREASE WHEN
YOU RETURN



- OH- H-H- BOY! -!
AIN'T IT A GR-R-R-RAND
AND GLOR-YUS FEELIN'?!?



OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!





MOVIE OF A BUSY MAN WRITING TO FRIEND WIFE

THIS MAY HAPPEN
ONCE IN FIFTY YEARS.



WHEN YOU HAVE LIVED
ALONE FOR A MONTH
AND TRIED TO SEW
ON BUTTONS



- AND 'TEND TO
YOUR LAUNDRY



AND SWEEP AND STILL
CAN'T MAKE THE
HOUSE LOOK
CLEAN



- AND HAVE EATEN OUT
UNTIL ALL THE RESTAURANT
MENUS IN TOWN LOOK LIKE
GOULASH



- AND THEN - YOU GET A
LETTER FROM FRIEND WIFE
SAY SHE'LL BE HOME
TOMORROW!



OH-H-H-H BABY!
AIN'T IT A
GR-R-RAND
AND
GLOR-YUS
FEELIN'?



OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!





MOVIE OF A MAN AND A NIGHT THUNDERSTORM





OH, MAN!





THE HIGH COST OF THANKSGIVING—OR SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!

"THEY DON'T GET IT!
THAT CHEAP! NO SIR!
THAT'S JUST LIKE A
WOMAN - NO BUSINESS
ABILITY WHATSOEVER.

AND YET
THEY
WANTA
VOTE'



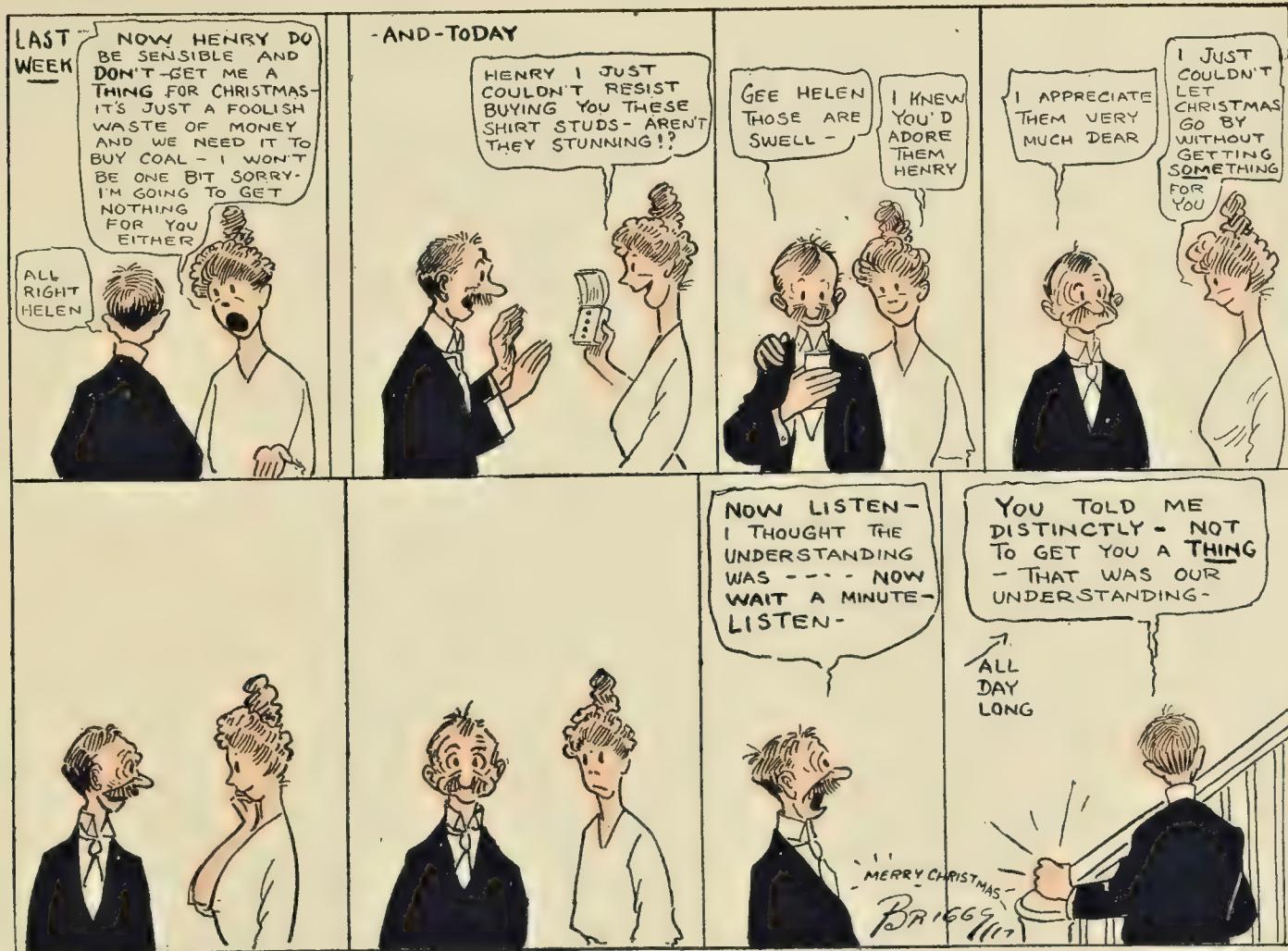


CHRISTMAS MORNING

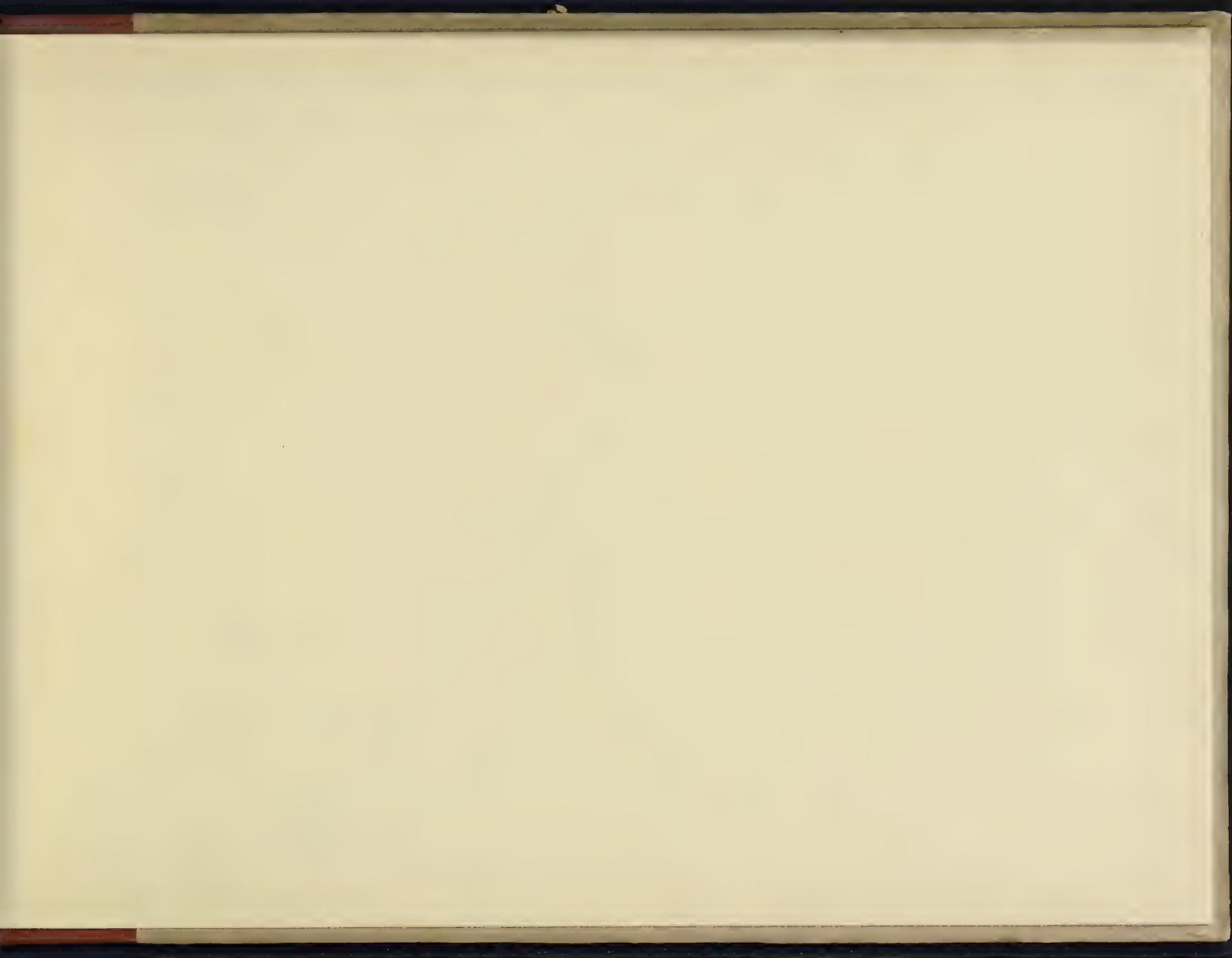
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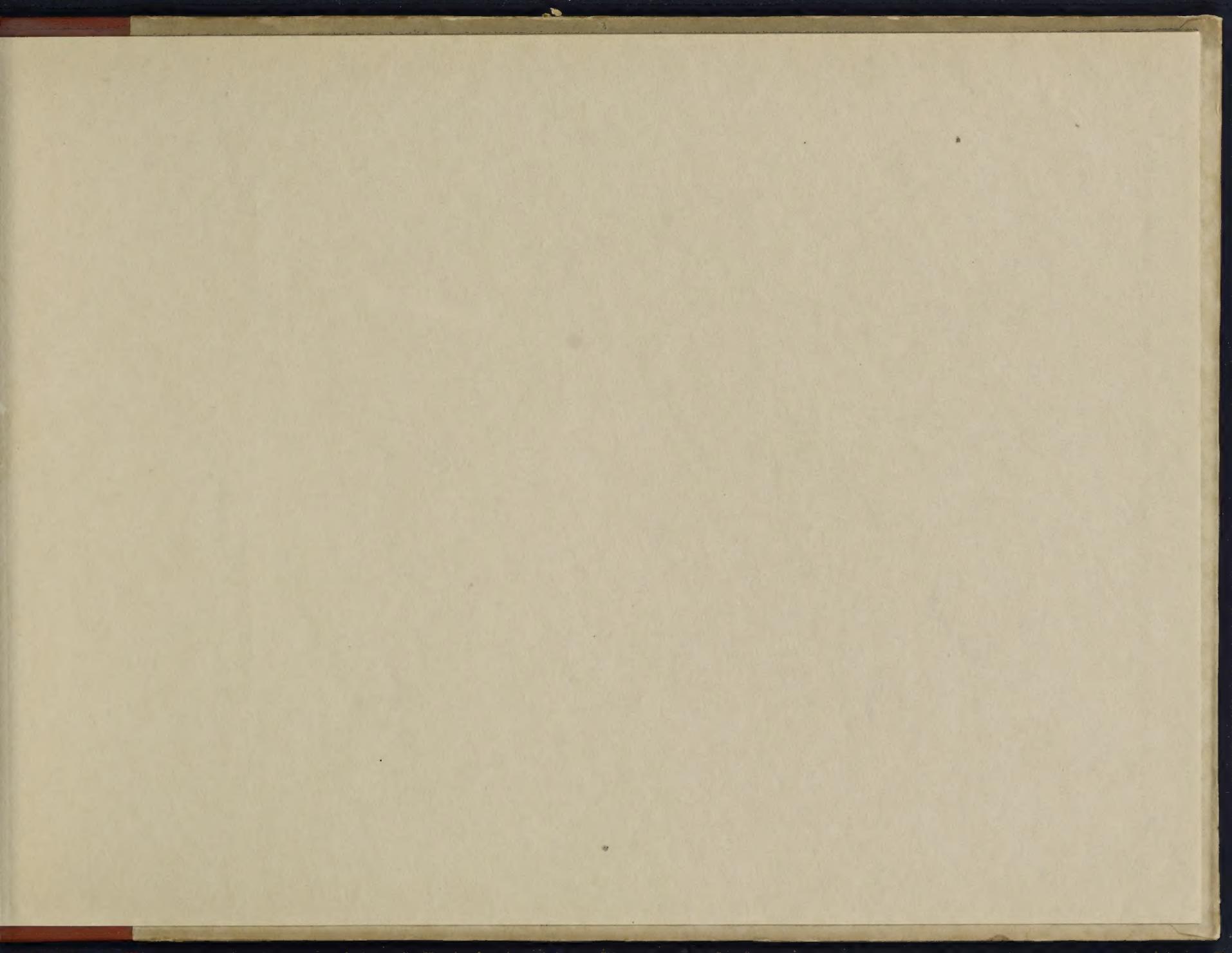
OH, MAN!





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





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